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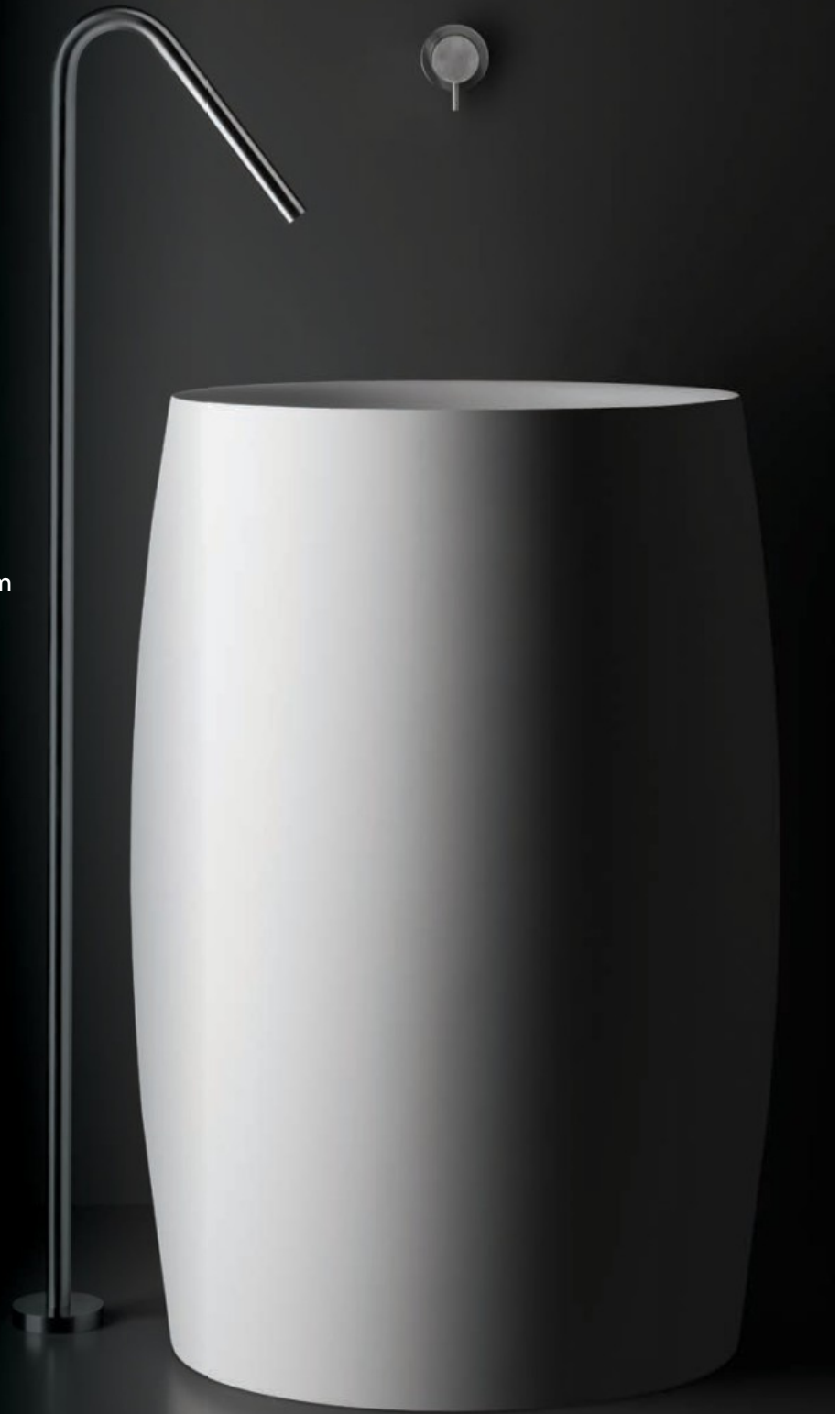
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Church conversion makes kitchen and bath spaces shine
Cover photo by Jim Tschetter/IC360 Images



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Moving Away from Monotone



For as long as I can remember, I have been buying clothes of only a few colors. I have an okay sense of style, but it is easier (and safer) for me to mix and match items without taking too many risks. I have a closet full of jeans, black pants and white t-shirts, and I only have two belts – black and brown.

More than one person has said on more than one occasion that I look good in "color," so I have recently started incorporating more of it into my wardrobe. Beside the classic black dress is now a green number with pretty patterns, and instead of all white button-ups, I now have some bold-colored blouses (although I still tend to wear those with nothing but jeans – baby steps).

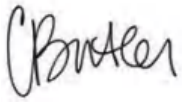
Regarding interior design, however, I love to see some color. I like white okay – it's timeless and classy – but I am really tired of seeing ALL white in today's kitchens. There should at least be a few bursts of color here and there – at least in my opinion. Why does everyone want to look like everyone else?

I recently went to a friend's housewarming party, and it was so refreshing to see a kitchen of a different color – in fact, nothing was white. The warm wood cabinets and dark countertops were a welcoming sight, and the open-plan layout kept the space on trend.

Last month, my boyfriend and I went to a special event to introduce BlueStar's new Platinum Series Range, which is available in 750+ colors! Adding colorful appliances is a perfect way to inject some pizzazz into a neutral-colored kitchen. An interesting backsplash can go a long way as well.

As with clothing, I can't "see" how to mix and match colors in the kitchen – I need help from the experts. This issue celebrates kitchens of a variety of colors – from mostly white to rockin' red to high-gloss, medium wood – designed by a host of talented professionals. Even in the white spaces, these designers took a chance with color, and I celebrate that. It's so nice to see something different for a change.

We hope you enjoy this colorful issue and welcome your feedback! ■



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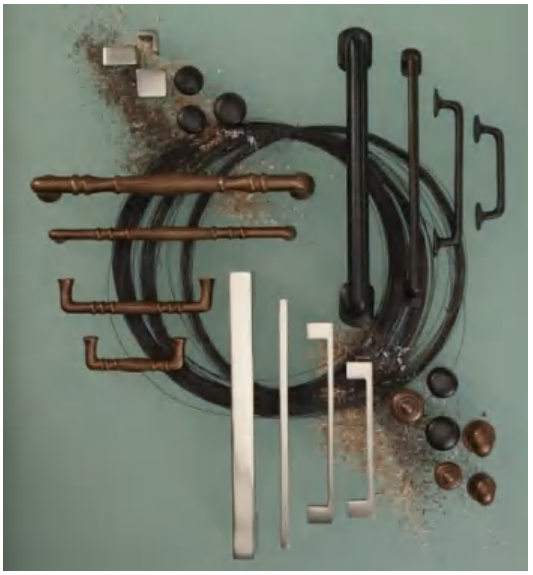
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A Memorable Experience…



As a parent, there are certain rites of passage we get to share with our children as they grow up. Just last month, I was able to share in one of those experiences with my daughter at her first concert – her mother and I had surprised her last Christmas with tickets to see Taylor Swift. While probably a concert I would not normally see, I was just happy to be there with her.

Since this was her first concert experience and we wanted it to be a special evening, we paid extra attention to all of the details leading up to the show. Everything from the outfits to dinner was carefully planned out. Of course the show was great and my daughter had a blast, however, I have since noticed that when she talks about that night it isn't all about the Taylor Swift performance. She spends just as much time talking about everything that took place around the show – the ride to the concert, fans dressed in crazy costumes, the signs in the crowd and the blinking wristbands at every seat that we later found out were part of the show. All of these little details were just as memorable to her as the show itself.

KBIS is really no different. We realize that when you come to the event, your experience really starts when you register to attend. This experience culminates at the show, but what you do from the moment you set foot in Las Vegas until the minute you go home is also very much a part of your KBIS story. It is ultimately the people you meet, the vendors you see and the product innovations on the show floor that leave that lasting impression.

This is why we go to great lengths to keep the event fresh and ensure that your experience is world class. No matter if this is your first time at KBIS or your 30th, there is always something new to see. As you are making your preparations for the show, I wanted to share with you some of what is **new** in 2016:

- **300 new companies**, accounting for more than 110,000 NSF of exhibit space at KBIS and IBS
- **Expanded content** from the NKBA's **Voices from the Industry** conference program
- **Fresh on-the-floor content** at the **NKBA CenterStage** and **KBISNeXT™ Stage**
- **KBIS Design Bites**, hosted by HGTV's Scott McGillvray at the KBISNeXT™ Stage
- **KBIS Portfolio Reviews**, sponsored by Modenus at the KBISNeXT™ Bar
- **Virginia Tech Future Bath** display
- KBIS **Outdoor Products Pavilion**

This is in addition to the other popular programs like the Best of KBIS, Innovative Showroom Awards and KBTribeChat. Please go to KBIS.com for registration information and to see our latest schedule of events.

I would also like to invite you to join the conversation and get involved on all of our social channels. We would love to connect with you on Twitter at #KBIS2016. Stay tuned for our new weekly video series – **KBIS NOW**. We also have showcased much of what inspires us and some of what has inspired you on our Pinterest and Instagram pages.

I hope to see you at KBIS, January 19-21, 2016, in Las Vegas! ■



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Alno Atlanta



Alno Atlanta's exclusive showroom for custom European-fitted cabinetry and kitchen design recently opened. The location features whole kitchen concepts designed by **Loay Ali**, founder of Alno Atlanta and **European Kitchen of Alabama**. The showroom marks Alno's 20th showroom in North America, and the company is also celebrating its 10th anniversary. "European design has become increasingly popular in the Atlanta area and parts of the South where consumers are moving away from the traditional look to a more streamlined, modern look," said Ali.



BLANCO has announced the three winners of its #BLANCODreamKitchen Design Contest that took place earlier this year. The company and a panel of design professionals chose Florida designer, **Marilyn Russell**, as the first-place winner with a grand prize of $1,000. Milwaukee designer, **Lila Guizado**, and Philadelphia designer, **Mick Ricereto**, were the two runners up. The winning kitchen projects feature the BLANCO PRECIS medium single with drainer and the CULINA MINI. This lofty, colorful, open kitchen features wood columns, ceiling beams and tile flooring and brick walls.

American Standard has been recognized as a 2015 Supplier Partner of the Year by **The Home Depot** for the kitchen and bath division. The company's Optum VorMax toilet was also a runner up for the 2015 Innovation Award for its new flushing system.



The National Kitchen & Bath Association has named **Jen Bruno** vice president of strategic development. She will be responsible for business and revenue development initiatives and staff management of the sales, learning & development, marketing and member relations functions. Bruno has more than 25 years of experience as a training, marketing and business development professional in several industries, including entertainment, technology, finance, consulting and manufacturing.



GRAFF's Dressage Vanity – designed by **Nespoli and Novara Design Studio** – won the Furniture Product of the Year Award at the 2015 **Decorative Plumbing & Hardware Association**'s Annual Conference and Product Showcase. The company was also recognized for its commitment to customer service with this year's Customer Service Department of the Year Award.

Duravit has announced a new partnership with **ACS Architectural Resources** of Hawaii to expand its reach to the South Pacific. ACS has contributed to globally renowned spas and resorts and high-end high-rise and condominium projects.



LATICRETE has named **Eerik Maandi**, PhD., vice president of research and development in North America. He has held several positions at **Henkel Corp.**, most recently as the director of innovation and technology, has 11 patents and is enrolled in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship program at Stanford University.



MrSteam has promoted **Kris Lee** to regional sales manager. He will provide support to decorative plumbing showrooms and steam dealers throughout the West and Midwest. Lee joined the company in 2010 as a field service technician and quickly moved up to technical sales representative.

Canyon Creek Cabinet Company was recently recognized by *Seattle Business* magazine for a Community Impact Award. The awards recognize Washington state businesses and organizations that are making a measurable impact on their communities; 26 were honored this year. Canyon Creek was the winner in the "Sustainability in Business Operations" category.

New & Improved Websites

Congrats to the following companies that have renovated or launched new websites:

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Answering to a Higher Power

Creating a kosher kitchen that is both fancy and functional



The cantilevered range hood makes a bold statement as it melds seamlessly with the deluxe kitchen design.

On Philadelphia's esteemed Main Line, there sits a 1920s home that is traditional in every way but one – the kitchen is a modern marvel. But although the kitchen itself is contemporary in design, it serves a traditional purpose: to allow its Orthodox Jewish owners to maintain a kosher kitchen.

Strict Jewish dietary laws prohibit the mixing of milk and meat, both in consumption and in food preparation. Therefore, separate sets of dishes, pots and pans and utensils are required – one for dairy and one for meat.

Challenge 1 — Create Two Distinct Work Zones, and Maintain a Seamless Flow between Them

To that end, the owners required a kitchen with two distinct work areas. Though they required a rabbi to ensure that the kitchen met the kosher designation, they hired Anna Maria and Carmen Vona, owners of Carmana Designs in Philadelphia, to design a luxury kitchen that allowed them to adhere to their practices.

The design team (which also included the homeowners' interior designer, Sue Goldstein of Sue Goldstein Designs) installed two ovens, two sinks and two dishwashers – one on each side of the kitchen – while a separate kitchen island allows for independent workspaces. While there is just one cooktop and one built-in, top-door refrigerator with a bottom-drawer freezer, there is also an undercounter refrigerator.

An artsy glass shelf in the middle of the room serves as a natural-looking divider. Nonetheless, the division of the space into separate work zones did not alter the flow of the room, as the designers were able to achieve both function and aesthetics. The designers also strived for a harmonious look between the modern kitchen and the more traditional remainder of the home.

"The whole house was very traditional, but they wanted a sleek and contemporary kitchen," added Carmen. According to Anna Maria, "It is contemporary but not coldhearted; it's warm with traditional touches throughout."

The kitchen is equipped with three entrances in and out, effectively separating the space from the rest of the home.

"This helped eliminate any transition problems," said Carmen.

Challenge 2: Incorporate a Glossy Cabinet Finish

The owners wanted that "wow" factor, which was accomplished by using a high-gloss finish on the cabinetry to complement the stainless steel appliances. The cabinets were made of Makore Fiddleback, an exotic, lush wood that is not typically used in kitchens but which provided another unique element to the space. However, it was a fairly arduous process to apply a high-gloss, catalyzed urethane finish.

"The high-gloss finish requires the open-grain wood of the cabinetry to be closed-pore, and because the Fiddleback Makore is such an open-grained wood, a polyester sealer is employed to close the grain," explained Anna Maria. "This sealer is applied up to three times and is then hand-sanded between coats. Then, the high-gloss topcoat is applied and sanded by hand so that it can be buffed and polished to a mirror finish."

To save time, the designers could have used a wood filler to

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The high-gloss finish on the Fiddleback Makore cabinetry makes the whole kitchen sparkle.

A custom-designed cabinet with four glass shelves and a mirrored back serves as a display for glassware and serving pieces.



speed up the process, but they declined to do that, as that would have changed the look of the wood itself. The end result was well worth the time-consuming task.

Challenge 3: Allow for Sufficient Storage Space

The homeowners have an active social life and volunteer at a number of events. They spend a great deal of time in the kitchen preparing for an almost weekly onslaught of dinner guests. As is not unusual for the couple to host 25-30 people in one night, being in the kitchen is a central part of their lives.

Because they needed twice the typical amount of dishes and cookware to accommodate their religious practices and entertaining needs, they required a place to store everything, including many frequently used large serving platters that needed to be easily accessible.

Before they even began, the designers had to first take inventory of the homeowners' supplies and then make sure that everything had its own proper place. Not being familiar with the customs was definitely a learning experience.

"I had to overcome my lack of knowledge, and then I learned all kinds of stuff by asking a million questions," said Carmen. "Different utensils had to be in different drawers, and the cabinets had to be sized for dishes. That was all part of the design process to make sure everything fit."

As for the large platters, some were stored in the basement, but the majority were turned on their edges and stood upright in the kitchen pantry.

Challenge 4: Incorporate a Chimney-Style Range Hood

The original range hood ordered was a chimney style. The 10-in. duct was supposed to come out no more than an inch or two from the back wall, with the 48-in. cooktop in the center. When the builder was working on the exhaust ductwork, he installed the duct in the second bay away from the wall because there was a steel beam blocking the first bay – and he did not tell the designers. This decision now put the front of the duct 25 inches away from the rear wall.

"It was a huge problem because now anything we did to cover it was going to stick out past the front of the range," said Anna Maria. "We had to scrap the original Wolf hood and design something else."

This could have been a design disaster save for Carmen's idea to attach the ducts at a steep angle and incorporate that into the design.

"I had to design an 'off-the-charts' custom hood to make it look like we did this intentionally," he said. "Using AutoCad, we designed and fabricated a stainless steel hood and had it custom made in a metal-fabricating shop. Walking into the kitchen, there is no way anyone can possibly tell that this was a huge mistake that was covered up. It was the highlight of the kitchen."

"Everybody loves it; it works great, and he turned it into a literal work of art," added Anna Maria. ■

— By Hilary Daninhirsch

sources

Designer: *Anna Maria and Carmen Vona, Carmana Designs & Sue Goldstein, Sue Goldstein Designs;* ***Photographer:*** *Barry Halkin, Halkin Photography*

Appliances: *Wolf/Sub-Zero;* ***Cabinetry:*** *Carmana Designs;* ***Hood Insert:*** *Best Hood*

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Family Ties

A childhood home receives kitchen renovation with equal parts saving and splurging



The new windows, faucet, hardware, glass treatments and red cabinets add to the fresh, modern look.



Niches over the frosted-glass-door cabinets help visually extend the windows and the light shining through them.

A man's early childhood family farmhouse came into his possession, and he wanted to renovate it as a retreat for himself and visiting family. The small home where his father was born was built in the 1800s in Buies Creek, N.C., and it was in dire need of an update.

Chelsea Armstrong, a designer with LuxeMark Co. in Raleigh, N.C., teamed up with Total Construction Solutions in Cary. N.C., on the $40,000 kitchen renovation to fulfill the client's needs, which included:

- Moving the location of the kitchen from the back of the house to a spot overlooking the fields outside
- Uncovering or leaving exposed as much of the original material as possible
- Carrying a contemporary design throughout the space
- Designing a kitchen that would accommodate everything needed to entertain a crowd while still allowing them to move through the space comfortably

"After spending some time together, it was apparent how important it was [to the client] that the warmth of the old home was maintained while bringing in modern elements," said Armstrong. "He expressed loving how well this had been done in buildings he had visited throughout Europe."

According to the designer, before she was hired her client had worked with some other designers and was having a hard time finding someone with his same vision. "He wanted contemporary, which means so many different things to different people," she added.

Staying on Track

Armstrong's client wanted to work with a budget comfortable to him and did not see the reason to spend a lot of money on certain aspects of the renovation.

"In order for him to feel good about some of the more expensive purchases, we needed to make some smart choices elsewhere," she added.



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VIGO

Upper wall cabinets house plates, glasses and serving dishes. Drawers, pullout trash and recycling and the lazy Susan support the small amount of food storage needed.





A glass element over the old wood protects it and creates a non-combustible area behind the range.

Although plentiful, the appliances chosen were modest, which she said was by design because of the small space, but the team splurged on the microwave drawer. A former hog-slaughtering table was repurposed as the island, and Armstrong added chunky legs, a shelf and some tempered glass with standoffs to protect surfaces. They were also able to use lumber on the property for the backsplash and the pot rack, which was custom made from an old tobacco barn pier by Total Construction Solutions. This repurposing allowed the team to keep costs down and use more of the budget for nice cabinets and plumbing fixtures. The countertop material is a leathered granite, which is less expensive than the soapstone the client originally wanted.

Challenges and Solutions

The range wall was covered in wood original to the house, and the homeowner insisted on keeping it. According to Armstrong, the first challenge was how to balance the visual weight with the rest of the room without closing it in. Her first solution was to bring in wood cabinetry around the refrigerator. Second, the contractor pulled wood from an old woodpile on the property to use for a backsplash behind the sink.

"Another challenge stemming from the wood wall was hanging cabinetry on warped, uneven, 150-year-old wood and protecting it behind the gas range," she added. "We used wood scribe to soften the visual of the uneven wood and glass to create a non-combustible area behind the range."

The home's original floors were another "untouchable" item. They are more than 100 years old and were in need of at least a light sanding, which Armstrong said is a nightmare for setting cabinets.

"A lot of math went into making sure we could keep a level top align and not draw attention to the floors that were out as much as three inches in places," she added. "The wood toe kick material was largely chosen to help with this camouflaging, and we repainted the floors a dark brown."

Adding all of the homeowner's desired appliances to this kitchen was another challenge because of its small size. The designer needed to balance those appliances so as not too appear too "heavy" and make room for necessary storage. She placed drawers, a trash/recycling area and a lazy Susan below and tall wall cabinets above for most of the storage he needed. The shelf added to the island table houses mixing bowls, cutting boards and large pots, and the pot rack provides storage for the rest of the pots and pans.

The final challenge was creating a transitional kitchen comfortable for a group in such a small space.

"He uses the home as either a cozy retreat for a couple of guests or a space to entertain a large number of people," said Armstrong. "The movable island table was key to this, and the custom pot rack looks just like part of the ceiling when pots are not hanging from it – making it easy to rearrange the space to suit both needs."

Seeing Red, not White

On her client's definite "no" list were white, Shaker-style cabinets.

"We looked at door styles, photos and brochures, and the first sign of a positive reaction was to a red/orange paint in which he remarked 'I could live with that,'" said the designer.

She used this color for most of the cabinetry – pulling in some wood around the fridge and in the moldings to tie it all in with the original wood on the range wall.

"During our original meeting, I noticed a painting he adored but had been unable to find the right place for it," said Armstrong. "I suggested we hang it opposite the kitchen, and from there this painting became the inspiration for the entire home."

She said the most welcoming challenge of this project was designing the contemporary kitchen the homeowner requested while maintaining the feel of the old farmhouse, which holds history and many memories for this family.

"All design decisions and selections were made with this goal in mind," said Armstrong. "It was all about balance, so for every modern element there had to be a traditional or original element to maintain the authenticity of the space." ■

— By Chelsie Butler

sources

Designer: *Chelsea Armstrong, LuxeMark Co.;* ***General Contractor:*** *Total Construction Solutions;* ***Photographer:*** *Tad Davis Photography*

Cabinetry: *Cabico;* ***Countertops:*** *CityRock;* ***Dishwasher, Hood & Range:*** *Whirlpool;* ***Faucet:*** *Grohe;* ***Microwave:*** *Sharp;* ***Refrigerator:*** *KitchenAid;* ***Sink:*** *Kohler;* ***Undercabinet Lighting:*** *Hafele*

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From Standard to Standout

A master bath's grand transformation was achieved by swapping out unnecessary fixtures for additional space





The previous builder-grade vanity area was not only a little humdrum, but it was too cramped of an area.

The designer was able to add significant length to the vanity area; the custom walnut cabinetry is not only lush but provides much-needed under-cabinet storage space.

A master bathroom in a two-story condominium in Miami was lacking both storage space and that "wow" factor. With a little shuffling around and a lot of ingenuity, the designer was able to create a deluxe spa-like retreat.

The owners of the condo are seasoned travelers and take notes of intriguing design ideas they come across during their travels. Thus, the couple had a clear picture of what they wanted in a master bathroom: an all-marble space with bright Calacatta or statuary marble with walnut cabinetry. Alena Capra, a certified kitchen and bath designer and owner of Alena Capra Designs in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., met with the clients, who had a Pinterest board filled with very specific ideas for their bathroom.

"I loved this," she said. "Knowing what they wanted really allowed me to jump right in and help make it their own."

Building Spatial Relations

The owners were seeking an updated, more stylish look for their run-of-the-mill, somewhat cramped bathroom, and they had a need for more storage space. The previous bathroom featured a standard marble tile with basic builder-grade fixtures and thin countertops.

As it was a condo, Capra was not able to add on to the area, nor could she move fixtures around. So she grabbed space where she could, and if that meant getting rid of some extraneous features, so be it.

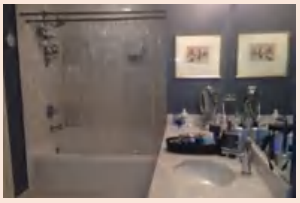
"Every time I saw an area that wasn't being utilized, we'd remove it to give more shower space," she added.

For example, the former bathroom contained a rarely used bidet, as well as a tub/shower combo and a separate 36-in. by 36-in. shower with an angled door.

"This took up a lot of space and [only provided them with] a tiny shower and a big tub," said Capra. "It didn't make sense to keep both in this bathroom."

The primary updates included:

- Adding a larger double-sink vanity
- Removing the existing bidet
- Eliminating the freestanding tub and shower/tub
- Adding 20 inches to the length of the new shower
- Building a shower bench



To address the lack of storage space, Capra took out the secondary neo-angle shower and replaced it with a large linen closet. As the former sink area didn't provide enough counter space, the designer pulled out the existing bidet and built out the vanity wall approximately 30 additional inches to the right – creating a more practical double-sink vanity. Additional storage space can now be found in the oversized drawers in the vanity area.

With the tub gone, Capra installed a luxury shower system to give the bathroom a master suite feel, adding three independently operating showerheads, including a rainhead on the ceiling with four nozzles in one, a hand shower and another showerhead on the opposite wall. She also added defogging mirrors in the shower.

In keeping with the concept of using every possible area of space, Capra was able to add a floating bench in the shower by taking space from an area that had been closed off and add 15-20 inches to the length of the shower. The bench is wrapped in Calacatta marble on all sides and is the same material used for the countertops.



A mixing and matching of marble patterns gives the shower that elegant touch with a little whimsy thrown into the mix.

Mixing it Up

Capra accommodated her clients' wishes to be enveloped by marble, but at the same time, she didn't want a monochromatic look – nor did she want the space to resemble a hotel bathroom. To create a unique look, she decided to utilize a variety of sizes and shapes of the statuary marble.

"We had a lot of different sizes of the same stone going on, which was cool; it gave them a marble bathroom, but it was more unique than putting the same size marble all over the walls," she said.

The floor tile dimensions are 12 inches by 24 inches, while the tile on the walls is 6 by 18 inches. The designer chose a 10-in. hexagon shape for the back wall of the main shower and used a soft gray grout to make that detail pop and soften the effect of so many different tile sizes. Incidentally, she pointed out that the hexagon is this year's trend, so as the project was completed last year, they were ahead of the curve.

To contrast with the all-marble bath, Capra chose a bold accent: a handmade ceramic brick in a pewter color with a metallic glaze used for impact on the vanity wall.

"We didn't want the countertop to run into the same color on the wall," she explained. "We pulled from the gray veining on the stone, and we carried that color into the shower flow, using a herringbone pattern to tie it together."



The marble was not the only element in the bathroom that Capra mixed to make an artistic statement – she also introduced a honed-white finish from Kohler, which she says is a good juxtaposition from the polished marble on the walls and countertop surfaces.

"We wanted to have the matte finish on the fixtures and polish on all of our tiles and counter surfaces; this was a nice mix of finish and texture," she said. "I love the feel of bright marble and the mixture of shapes and sizes of tiles playing off each other."

Another issue was that the previously dark walls, coupled with basic incandescent lighting, dulled the room. Capra put in LED recessed ceiling lighting with square trim, as well as stiletto LED task lighting with sconces. Additional LED lighting underneath the cabinet not only acts as a nightlight but highlights the vanity wall.

"Going to LED was amazing; the quality of light is so different," said the designer.

Newly installed frosted opaque doors also let some natural light flow into the room, and the resulting spa-like space is a meld of sleek and clean lines and a calming effect. ■

— By Hilary Daninhirsch

sources

Designer: *Alena Capra, Alena Capra Designs;* ***Installer:*** *Pavel Prichici, Inc.;* ***Photographer:*** *Darryl Nobles*

Cabinetry: *Omega Cabinetry (Embassy Semi-Custom Walnut);* ***Countertop:*** *Marble of the World (Calacatta);* ***Fixtures:*** *Kohler;* ***Tile:*** *Catalfamo Gallery (Statuary Marble)*

Let's Get Together

A valuable field of design unites all ages and abilities

Universal design is dropping a misconception – it's for everyone, not just the disabled or elderly. While easy-to-use elements and safety features make aging in place possible, the field is more about inclusion.

"Universal design has the power to make life better for every person, no matter his or her stage of life," said designer Kerrie Kelly of Sacramento, Calif.-based Kerrie Kelly Design Lab. "It isn't more complicated or more expensive to create an effective, functional space for all – it's just much more thoughtful."

Thoughtfulness includes preferred aesthetic, convenience, health and safety.

"We are living longer, which means some are living longer with diminished mobility or disabilities," said designer Anne-Marie Brunet of Cornwall, Ontario-based Sheridan Interiors. "This demands better planning and innovative products for individuals to maintain their dignity and independence. Universal design looks to answer these challenges through continued study, innovative spatial planning and new product offerings."

Dangers in the Kitchen

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2.5 million older people and 2.8 million children a year are treated in emergency departments for fall injuries. Every day, more than 300 children are treated for burn-related injuries, and two children die as a result of being burned.

Whatever the age or ability, some of the most obvious dangers in the kitchen involve cooking appliances. Burns result from reaching across hot elements for controls, accidentally brushing a hot surface or coming in contact with scalding water.

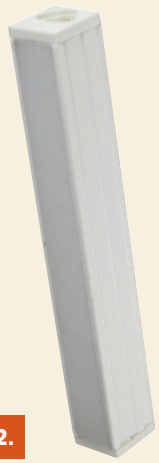
"It is not uncommon that in our busy lives, we forget to turn off the stove or cannot prevent a loved one from touching an off-but-still-hot burner grate," said Valentina Bertazzoni, director of brand management and style for Bertazzoni. "With induction technology, this is avoidable."

An induction cooker produces a high-frequency electromagnetic field that penetrates the metal of a magnetic-material cooking vessel and sets up a circulating electric current, which generates heat. The field affects nothing outside of the vessel, so as soon as a pot or pan is removed or the top turned off, heat generation stops. Thermal-resistant materials on touch points and front- or side-mounted controls further decrease injuries.

Handles also have a significant role in water safety, since anyone can be scalded by accidentally turning a faucet knob too far. Forward-rotating lever handles are on the rise, allowing for single-hand operation that doesn't require the user to reach far into the sink. Touchless faucets accommodate most mobility problems, and improved faucet technology also has lowered hazards.



1.



2.

1. Zephyr Ventilation has added Lux Island to its Arc Collection of hoods. This integrated design discreetly mounts into the ceiling above the island cooktop and features three strips of industry-first, tri-level LED lights to illuminate the cooktop.

2. Dimmable down to 15 percent, the **MaxLite** LED Plug-and-Play Lightbars are offered in multiple lumen outputs and lengths for installation as toe kick and undercabinet lighting. The bars feature an architectural-grade diffuser that minimizes glare and distributes light evenly for safety optimization.

3. Along with a two-function, toggle-control spray engine, the East Linear pull-down faucet from **Newport Brass** features a solid brass construction as well as a swivel-spout assembly with a side-mounted, ADA-compliant lever handle. In the lever, a Euro-motion, ceramic disc valve cartridge provides longevity and fluid operation.

4. Hardware Renaissance has added to their catalog of sand-cast bronze pieces with Aria, a new cabinet pull. The pulls are available in 15 hand-patinated finishes and 2.5-, 5-, 8- and 12-in. sizes.



3.



4.



5. The Notch kitchen collection of faucets from **Moen** includes a high-arc kitchen faucet and a matching bar/prep model. Both feature a 45-degree-angle handle and are ADA compliant.

6. To keep items within easier access, the 448-OXO Series 8-in. Storage Container Base Organizer from **Rev-A-Shelf** includes OXO containers and supportive rear brackets for extra strength and stability.



7. Made from Schott Ceran glass-ceramic, the **Bertazzoni** Induction Range only heats the part of the cooktop a metal pot or pan touches, making it 90 percent more efficient than a standard gas range. As soon as cookware is removed, the top is cool to the touch.

8. The **GROHE** Essence NEW features a smaller body for a more delicate look, thanks to a new 28-mm cartridge. The faucet includes extended comfort height, a solid metal spray, pullout dual spray with toggle function and an integrated temperature limiter that can be individually set.





"Adding a faucet with an integrated temperature limiter can reduce the risk of scalding," said Cheryl Dickson, head of brand and trade marketing of Grohe America, who added that visual cues like indicator lights in the faucets also keep users from harm. "Touch technology can minimize difficulty reaching and operating faucet handles with just a touch to the faucet."

Coming in 2016, Grohe will also offer foot-controlled faucets, which use infrared technology activated by waving a foot under a unit.

Less Trips and Falls

Second to burn accidents in the kitchen, trips happen because of problems with traffic flow or object blockage. According to the ADA, the minimum clear width for a single wheelchair passage should be 32 inches. This roomier corridor also allows for entertaining larger groups, carrying several bags of groceries or for children's play.

In that wider corridor, avoiding rugs or a drastic change in flooring material will reduce the risk of trips and falls. New technologies, such as underfloor heating, make up for the lack of heat.

"Replacing the traditional forced air system, electric radiant heat is an invisible heat source that eliminates airborne particles that often bother seniors' and infants' respiratory systems," said Wally Lo, product manager for Nuheat. "The WiFi-enabled thermostat allows [users] to ensure the heat is at a warm enough temperature."

With rugs out of the way, cabinet doors are the main culprits in impeding traffic. Hinge-based cabinet doors block off spaces when opened, which can cause trips and falls. Traffic can improve by expanding the space between the base cabinets and the islands, and thinking about height difference and reach would additionally reduce the risk of falls.

"Installation of sliding hardware allows shelves and storage baskets to extend out to consumers," said Daniel Tripp, kitchen product manager for Häfele. "Similarly, some fixtures can fold down from above for easy access and then back into cabinets for smart storage."

The Right Level

Accessories for cabinetry, like the cabinet pull-down system, are also on the rise. While some of these accessories need to be planned for new cabinets, others can retrofit existing cabinetry. Rollout drawers for base cabinets often are another easy retrofit and greatly improve cabinet accessibility.

"Cabinetry units and sections that can be raised or lowered on demand offer greater flexibility for multiple users in one household," said Brunet. "Think of couples who have large height differences, a family member in a chair or an aging member who prefers to sit while doing prep work. All can function effortlessly in a kitchen that quickly adapts to their individual needs."

The same applies for ovens, where any taller individual or one with mobility issues can scald themselves on drop-down oven doors. A wall oven at the right height for the user allows for a safer and more comfortable option, and now several manufacturers are also offering a swing-out door or French door.

"The doors on these [French-door ovens] are linked, allowing one-handed operation to open both simultaneously," said Brent Bailey, vice president of brand management for Viking Range. "This type of function makes the oven interior and food content more accessible and reduces the risk of touching hot surfaces."

Similar design details, like placing a microwave at the right height,

make snack time easier for children and pre-made meals simpler for adults. Multi-level countertops – particularly with lowered counters – are growing in popularity, while islands with bar tops are decreasing.

"Everything from the height and depth of countertops to the positioning of cupboards and undercounter spaces are looked at from the perspective of creating a safe and accessible working environment," said designer Sally Swanson, CEO and founder of San Francisco-based Sally Swanson Architects. "No detail is too small to consider, whether it's the positioning of outlets within arm's reach to accommodate small appliances or the right amount of space to maneuver around an open oven or refrigerator door."

Function and Aesthetic

While the same rules apply to refrigerator doors – manufacturers are improving on ergonomic lever handles and side-by-side refrigerator/freezer towers – more focus is placed on health and well-being. Whether because of a busy schedule or the inability to go to the grocery store independently, quality food storage is a priority.

"A simple, intuitive appliance should benefit young and old," said Josef Steigmiller, vice president of Liebherr Refrigeration for the Americas, who added that new homebuyers especially are looking for less ornamentation, easy-to-clean elements and environmentally friendly qualities.

With manufacturers realizing that every age group looks for long-lasting products suited for everyone, practical and stylized features are now more frequently available in universally designed products. Lever handles fulfill a more modern design aesthetic and are easy to use for children and the disabled, and glass-front doors create an open layout with simpler visibility. Lower, deep drawers organize pots and pans and reduce bending, and trendy pot-fillers by the stove eliminate heavy lifting.

"Manufacturers have begun to realize that products need to be both functional and attractive for people to consider bringing them into their home – especially in a room they'll be working in and interacting with on a daily basis, such as a kitchen," added Tripp.

Spreading the Design

As universal design grows in popularity and technology becomes even more a part of daily life, products are likely to integrate easy-to-use technology. The advances in WiFi will likely create more remote interconnectivity, allowing for refrigerators to notify the user if a door is ajar or for an oven to turn off when cooking is finished.

"Expect to see controls and displays that allow the user to modify however it makes sense to them," said Bailey, who added that reviews are such a huge part of product success that consumers rating a product as complicated equates to major loss. "If they have trouble seeing, text and buttons can be set to large. Volume and sounds can also be changed, and control guides can walk users through various functions. This type of flexibility will be offered without sacrificing design."

The field is likely to become more commonplace as multigenerational living increases and the younger generations, which tend to put high value in flexible spaces and quality, buy homes. While considering families and years down the road, homebuyers and designers alike will learn to cater to future families, potential situations and thoughtful design.


9.


10.

9. The FREE lift-fittings from **Häfele** lift cabinet doors up and out of the way instead of swinging toward the user. Additionally, once the door is opened it remains in position no matter how far it is opened.

10. Liebherr's Energy Star-qualified, fully-integrated refrigerator models boast features like DuoCooling, SuperCool, SuperFrost and BioFresh for better food preservation. Each drawer can be used individually and provides ideal temperature and humidity – allowing for less waste and healthier options.

11. As the largest in the industry, the 4.7-cu.-ft. 7 Series Built-In French-Door Double Oven from **Viking** has six porcelain-coated rack positions and includes three extension racks and three halogen lights inside. Opening either door with one hand opens the other door simultaneously, and the metal knobs are accented with LED lights when the unit is turned on for easy visibility.

12. Nuheat's standard underfloor heating mats are 1/8-in. thick, easy to install, energy efficient and can be controlled using a variety of thermostat options. The mats come in more than 60 different standard sizes and are available in both 120- and 240-volt formats.


11.


12.

"The term 'visitability' is gaining more and more exposure on the universal design front," said Kelley. "This means that a home accommodates everyone and encourages all ages to come and visit. Universal and 'visitable' design can be easily incorporated using simple designer tricks and the appropriate materials so all can join in the fun regardless of age." ■

— By Erinn Waldo

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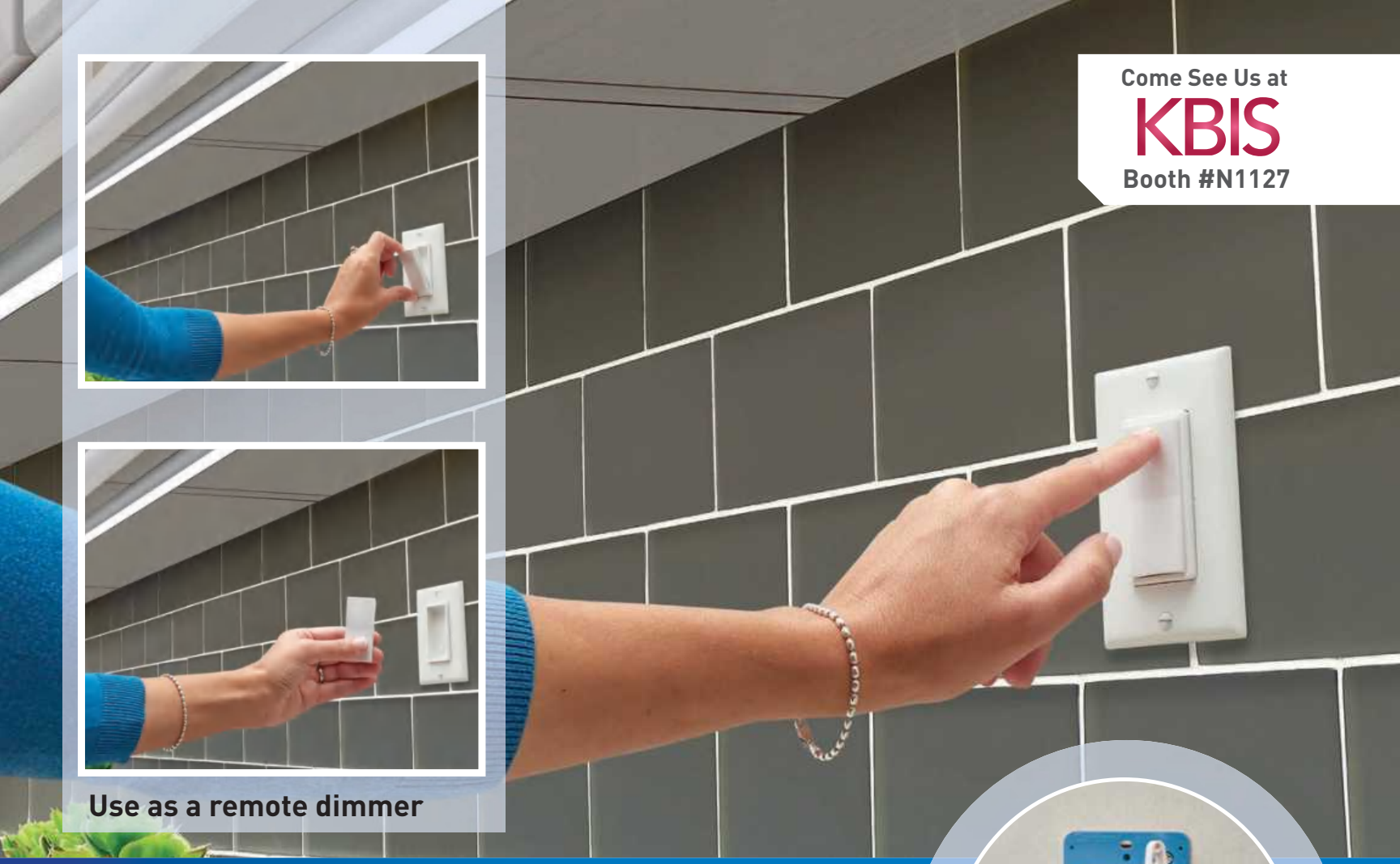


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KBIS SPECIAL SECTION

The KBIS 2016 Countdown

Las Vegas | January 19-21

to Design & Construction Week®

Section by Chelsie Butler and Erinn Waldo











K+BB's exclusive special section is THE place to go to get up-to-date information on everything related to and leading up to Design & Construction Week® and KBIS 2016. Visit these pages for all of the latest networking opportunities, educational offerings, new products, competitions, exhibitor interviews, partnering show events and much more.

On with the Shows!

Presented by KITCHEN AND BATH BUSINESS K+BB DESIGN + INNOVATION + LIFESTYLE

26-27 Returning Exhibitors, Innovative Showroom Awards & Other Events

46-50 30 Under 30 Introductions - an In-Depth Look at a Select Few

51-52 KBIS Products Sneak Peek

"Do" Call it a Comeback

Major brands return to award-winning KBIS

For 2016, Design & Construction Week® (DCW) anticipates an attendance of 110,000+ residential construction and design professionals and a combined total of 2,500+ exhibitors in more than 1.2 million net square feet of space. American Standard, DXV and GROHE have announced their return to KBIS as part of LIXIL Water Technology.



GROHE Essence

Having last exhibited in 2008, **GROHE**'s return to KBIS 2016 is ideal with the formation of the LIXIL Water Technology Group, which represents the world's largest global leader in decorative plumbing products.

"GROHE has had a leading presence at ISH," said Cheryl Dixon, head of brand and trade marketing for GROHE, "and with a resurgence of excitement surrounding KBIS, we are excited to showcase new innovations, technologies and beautiful designs across our kitchen, shower and bath portfolio to KBIS visitors and offer solutions for every need, preference and price point."

GROHE will be a sponsor of the second-annual KBIS Innovative Showroom Awards (see next page), and the company is looking forward to the opportunity to connect with industry professionals, learn about their needs and share its products and innovations.

"KBIS has become a "can't-miss" event, and we are thrilled to be back," added Dixon.

GROHE will be featuring several kitchen and bath faucets during KBIS, including the Essence New bathroom faucet, shown above in the company's StarLight chrome finish. The new line features two smaller versions, as well as a medium, large and extra-large option.

The GROHE booth will be an inspiring, immersive experience and will feature lifestyle vignettes showcasing its latest innovations in kitchen, bath and shower. There will also be a water refreshment station offering chilled flat and sparkling water from GROHE Blue Chilled & Sparkling.

American Standard Brands last exhibited at KBIS in 2008, and Jeannette Long, vice president of brand marketing, says that with more than 33,000 attendees, it is easily the largest gathering of kitchen and bath professionals.

"The resurgence and growth of KBIS and the excitement generated around DCW events is an ideal platform to showcase our brands' latest products, trends and technologies," she said. "As the world's largest provider to this industry, it is only natural that the LIXIL Water Technology group be well represented here."

American Standard Brands is also sponsoring the Innovation Showroom Awards during KBIS 2016.

"Knowing the comprehensive education that showrooms provide, along with creating an unmatched customer experience, we feel it's only fitting to recognize the real heroes in our industry – those who are interacting with customers every day providing expert advice, service and design insights that help grow our business," said Long.



Oak Hill, DXV by American Standard

The company will be featuring a variety of products at the show, including the new Oak Hill Collection from the DXV by American Standard brand (above). It blends traditional American farmhouse design with today's contemporary conveniences and includes soaking tubs, lavatories, faucets and toilets. The booth will also feature working models of the first commercially available residential faucets created through 3D metal printing.

KBIS & DCW Hits and Highlights

- **NKBA Design Competition and Industry Awards**. On Monday, Jan. 18 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Marquee Nightclub in the Cosmopolitan, the NKBA will announce the winners of its 2016 Design Competition. The event will also celebrate other industry professionals who have made an impression in the kitchen and bath industry. Be ready for drinks, dancing, food and fun!

- **DCW Opening Ceremonies**. On Tuesday, Jan. 19 from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino – Paradise Event Center, comedian Jay Leno will head the Opening Ceremonies during DCW. Following will be a drum show by Rhythm Extreme – complete with trash cans, oil drums, buckets, brooms, hockey sticks, BBQ grills and more. This event is open to all registered attendees, and doors open at 7 a.m.

- **DesignBites**. This speed-dating-style program for brands and attendees will take place during the lunch hour on Tuesday and Wednesday – Jan. 19-20 – as part of KBIS NeXT™ in the South Hall. Scott McGillivray, a contractor, real estate investor and HGTV star, will host this first-ever event. A total of 14 presentations will be selected – seven each day – with kitchen products featured the first day and bath products the next. Scott will be on hand after DesignBites to sign copies of his latest book, *How to Add Value to Your Home*, and for photo ops.

- **#KBTribeChat Progressive Live Chat**. This online forum will make its appearance at KBIS 2016 with a live, progressive chat on the show floor at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19. This event will bring participants together in person and online for a first look at the most innovative products at the show, including offerings from TOTO, Wellborn Cabinet and Cambria USA.

Innovative Showroom Awards Returns to KBIS 2016

Program celebrates this vital channel's role in our industry

Sponsored by: American Standard, DXV American Standard, GROHE

Successful kitchen and bath showrooms are where designers and consumers can "meet" – up close and personal – the latest products in our industry. This important part of the industry will once again be recognized during the second-annual Innovative Showroom Awards competition during KBIS 2016. Kitchen and bath showrooms across the country that are offering an unforgettable experience have been invited to submit a nomination for consideration.

"Retail showrooms and the experience they provide are vital to our industry," said Brian Pagel, vice president of the Kitchen and Bath Group at Emerald Expositions. "They are tasked with educating and engaging consumers on the latest in kitchen and bath innovations, and we want to continue to recognize the important role they play."

The 2016 Innovative Showroom Awards are exclusively sponsored by American Standard, DXV and GROHE, which are returning to KBIS as part of LIXIL Water Technology. *K+BB* got more insight from the sponsors on their participation this year (see top right sidebar).

A winner will be chosen in each of the following categories, with one chosen as the overall Innovative Retail Showroom:

- Independent Retail Showrooms Locations (1-5 showroom locations) - Small (1,000- 2,500 sq. ft.)
- Independent Retail Showrooms Locations (1-5 showroom locations) - Medium (2,500 – 5,000 sq. ft.)
- Independent Retail Showrooms Locations (1-5 showroom locations) - Large (5,000 sq. ft.+)
- Multi Location Retail Showrooms (6+ showroom locations) - Small (1,000- 2,500 sq. ft.)
- Multi Location Retail Showrooms (6+ showroom locations) - Medium (2,500 – 5,000 sq. ft.)
- Multi Location Retail Showrooms (6+ showroom locations) - Large (5,000 sq. ft.+)

The 2016 Award winners will be determined by the Innovative Showroom Advisory Board, which is comprised of retail showroom design professionals, prior award winners and industry influencers (see bottom right sidebar). The board will select 18 finalists, and representatives from these showrooms will be invited to speak as part of a panel discussion on showroom innovation at KBIS 2016 on the KBISNeXT™ stage. The winners will be announced following the discussion on January 19, 2016.



New for this year is the People's Choice Award, which allows the public to vote for their favorite showroom. The vote will occur the week following KBIS 2016, January 27-February 5, 2016, via the KBIS Facebook page.

Celebrating Showrooms

K+BB sat down with Maha El Kharbotly, chief marketing officer for American Standard Brands/LIXIL Water Technology Americas, to get some insight on their sponsorship participation and why it is important to them.

What made your company decide to support this event, and how is it important to our industry?

Maha El Kharbotly: The awards encourage showrooms to be innovative, think outside the box and create a unique entity. People who work in showrooms are very creative, and the awards reward and enhance this creativity. This event allows them to go out of their way to do things differently and keep innovating, which is crucial. Showrooms are a critical part of our business; the awards are another way to tell them we support them and their customers.

Why do you feel K&B showrooms are valuable to our industry?

Maha El Kharbotly: The showroom channel is the highest level of service for the consumer. It is a place where they can build the image of what they feel their home should be. They can start to imagine colors, finishes, function, textures, etc., for their spaces. One can only really get that experience when a client works closely with showroom personnel.

Innovative Showroom Advisory Board

This year's board is made up of:

Chelsie Butler, executive editor, *K+BB* magazine

Nancy Epstein, CEO, Artistic Tile

Tony Lutz, president and CEO & **Mia Nicolaisen**, senior director, sales and business development, Interior Systems Inc.

Ken Nisch, chairman, JGA

Danny Swaim, vice president, business development, PIRCH

NKBA 30 Under 30 Announced

K+BB takes a closer look at a select few of this year's award recipients

The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) has chosen 30 young professional to explore the KBIS 2016 show floor and report on key industry topics. The experience is designed to help this group immerse and apply themselves to new opportunities for growth and development in support of the kitchen and bath industry. In this "Introductions to the Industry," program, the 2016 30 Under 30 group will make its debut on the KBIS show floor on Jan. 19, at 10:15 a.m. at Center Stage, NKBA Booth #N2163 and will be honored by a gathering of industry professionals.

As the voice of the next generation of kitchen and bath professionals, the 30 Under 30 group will explore the show floor for innovations, trends and new technologies, as well as sustainable business practices and emerging business models. At KBIS 2016, the group will work on obtaining valuable information on a specific topic from exhibitor feedback and share their findings during a presentation on Jan. 20 at Center Stage, NKBA Booth #N2163 on the show floor. In this session, the teams will present their research on critical kitchen and bath industry topics, including generational solutions and challenges, product trends and the future of the kitchen and bath industry. They will also answer questions regarding any issues that professionals face in their businesses.

The candidates selected for the 2016 progam include: **Cathleen Gruver Adkins**, Gruver Cooley; **Michelle Alderman**, Green Forest Cabinetry; **Tyler Allen**, Richard Douglas Company; **Aditya Bansal**, Valley Acrylic; **Jennifer Beavers**, Norm Tessier Cabinets, Inc.; **Alana A. Busse**, Westside Remodeling; **Katie Cook**, Ferguson Enterprises; **Robert Cooper**, White Oak Construction; **Mark Davies**, Royal Home Improvements; **Brandon Drum**, US Cabinet Depot; **Caleb Froelich**, The Home Depot; **Megan Fuller**, Whitehorse Home Hardware Building Centre, a division of the Miramar Group of stores; **Michael Laurysen**, Laurysen Kitchens; **Brenton Liu**, Design Trends Construction; **Aaron Lytal**, Craftsmanship By John Inc.; **Lauren Mills**, Sea Pointe Construction; **Erica Murdock**, Kitchen Choreography; **Benjamin John Ouellette**, Casey's Creative Kitchens; **Jordan Parisse**, Ferrarini Kitchen & Bath; **Nicholas Preston**, Reico Kitchen and Bath; **Nathan J. Reynolds**, **CAPS,** INSPERIORS, LLC; **Jordan Sanderson**, Hansgrohe; **Jillian C. Sarkis, Allied ASID**, Ferguson; **Mark Scholten**, Scholten Kitchen and Bath; **Laura Shelby**, The Ensuite – a Division of EMCO Corporation; **Jamie Sprague**, McClurg Remodeling; **Tansley Struthers**, Superior Cabinets; **Jack Townsend II**, Michigan Kitchen Distributors; **Brook Verboom**, Euro-Line Appliances; and **Nicholas Yegge**, Heartwood Residential.



Alana Busse, Westside Remodeling, Thousand Oaks, Calif.

During a kitchen and bath design course Alana Busse took nine years ago, her teacher convinced her to fall in love with this industry. Three years later she became an EPA-certified renovator – undergoing a rigorous training program. Busse believes in being on top of the big picture and the small details.

"When you are remodeling, there are thousands of small details that need to be thought through," she said. "Sometimes when homeowners are trying to process each of those decisions, it's easy for them to lose track of how they relate to their goals aesthetically and functionally. I help keep them on track with their design plan by anticipating challenges that may arise well before they become issues."

Projects. Busse has worked on projects in various countries, and one of her favorites (right) was featured in *IMAGE* magazine. In this conversion of a mother-in-law suite to a bachelor pad, she moved walls, plumbing and electrical and specified all of the materials. She created a vintage theme and was able to reuse some of the existing materials, including the brick flooring.



Photo provided by Alana Busse

Experience. Busse has served several roles as a member of The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) for about eight years and says the group's core purpose is "to enhance the success of women in the construction industry."

"NAWIC's pledge: 'As material for the construction of our building, I pledge the agility of my hands, the ability of my mind and the integrity of my heart,' speaks to many positive values I hold to be important," she added.

Benefit to 30 Under 30. As Busse is one of the more senior recipients in the group, she brings a vast amount of experience in seeing which trends have worked and those that have not lasted. She gained this experience as a lead designer at an architecture and construction company, and her education is not limited to college but also includes courses with the EPA, NKBA and NAWIC.

"I feel education within the industry is very important," she said. "Whenever possible I attend and participate in any webinars, tradeshows, seminars and product launches that pertain to the industry."



Caleb Froelich, The Home Depot, Seattle

In college, Caleb Froelich was very industrious in creating his own furniture by watching Youtube videos and simply experimenting. He converted an inherited backseat of a van into a couch, made a table out of CD cases donated by college radio stations and used cardboard to build a TV stand.

"The final piece I made was a table from some scrap wood I found with a 'free' sign on it," he said. "I had my 'Eureka!' moment two months

later in when I realized I could make a table and stools from it while creating almost no waste or using any glue."

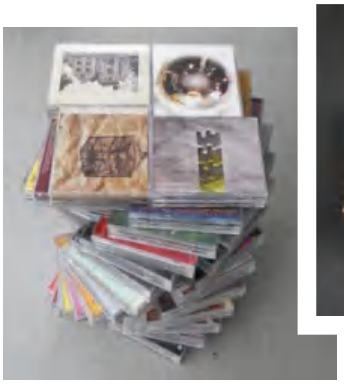
Ideas on Etsy. Today, Froelich has his own shop on Etsy.com – Shelter Décor – where he has turned his sketches into real objects he sells on the site.

"After college I was drawing a lot, and everything I drew turned into some kind of lamp or table," he added, "but I already had an apartment filled with things I had made. I didn't need another coffee table or several hanging lampshades."

Now Froelich sells his sketches-come-to-life, and each piece helps him buy materials for his next idea.

Benefit to 30 Under 30. He believes his ability to brace new concepts and move past the status quo will be an asset to the program.

"I am most at peace when I am able to create something new or design something that solves a problem," added Froelich. "I love the process of learning by doing and getting my hands dirty, and I am also a ton of fun to have around!"





CD Table photo by Caleb Froelich; Lamp photo by Aya Tiffany Sato



Cathleen Gruver Adkins, Gruver Cooley, Leesburg, Va.

Cathleen Gruver Adkins is not only an interior designer for her family's 107-year-old firm – she's a selection specialist and an expert in online sourcing as well.

"Going through a home building or remodeling project, with the myriad of decisions required, can be overwhelming for many clients," she said. "As the selection specialist, I facilitate this decision-making process by narrowing down options to achieve a particular look within a desired budget range."

On and Off Line. Adkins provides timelines for this decision-making process, recommends vendors for products and will even accompany clients to showrooms.

"To help our clients take advantage of the many products that can be procured online, I have become intimately familiar with a wide variety of sources for home design selections," she added. "I can quickly point clients toward online options that fit with their specific needs and style."

Family-Themed Thesis. Adkins' Arts in Interior Design Masters thesis focused on the potential ways family interaction can be impacted by interior design. It won the "Best In Show" award among the graduate design projects in 2015 at Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

"In an era where technology increasingly encroaches on daily life and can decrease family interaction, design can ensure that opportunities for interaction are maximized in the home," she said. "By designing a living space that is open, multi-functional and comfortable, interior designers have the potential to improve the ways in which family members' social needs are met within the family structure."

Technology & Marketing Strategies. Adkins and her firm use GoogleDrive to help clients track the many selections during their project. By using this, clients can see up-to-date information regarding their individual project, including progress on selections and current budget status. An additional benefit of this approach, she notes, is that it allows clients to see real-time progress on both construction and design implementation.

Her firm sends out a quarterly electronic newsletter with interesting articles, pictures and a discussion of design trends to remain in the forefront of people's thoughts when they recommend a contractor to a friend or acquaintance.

30 Under 30. Adkins is bringing her knowledge as a professional interior designer and her small business perspective to KBIS. She also feels she has a solid understanding of the needs of her clients in the greater Washington, D.C., area that she can share with the group.



Jennifer Beavers, Norm Tessier Cabinets, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

When Jennifer Beavers was 12 years old, her father enlisted the family to help with their kitchen remodel. Through a hands-on approach, she was able to help apply the stain to the cherry kitchen cabinets after school with her dad.

I love that memory to this day," she added. "After my first round of stain, he let me believe it would take months to dissolve from my hands."

A Jill of all Trades. Today, Beavers' specialty is cabinet installations, but she is also involved in many other facets of the company, including drafting, engineering and marketing. She has worked hard to expand her company's capabilities, and it now offers granite fabricators, tile installers, wood flooring installers, electricians, plumbers, drywallers, etc.

She created the company's website and social media pages, writes blogs and maintains the Houzz profile. With her technology background, she also helped bring in a full-service CNC-integrated design program.

"I brought on an online project management service to link all inside and outside employees and subcontractors directly with the office for design and communication," said Beavers. "This helped provide a more transparent experience with access to a full calendar, change orders, service requests and selections so clients can do more at their own pace throughout the process."

Last May, she was a winner of the Viking Design Competition. Her



project (shown on previous page) was a family's dream kitchen in memory of their youngest son, who was a chef. The family's catering business has continued – using professional-grade Viking appliances.

Outside the Box. Beavers does not restrict herself to the room layout in front of her, adding that the design concept can be pulled into the existing room without first thinking within its bounds.

"Most kitchen remodel firms replace what's there, but I throw it all away and start from scratch as if it's a brand new home," she said. "I do the same with the architect's plans – theirs might be perfect to the client, but I prefer to begin anew just in case."

30 Under 30. Beavers' ability to have a hand in every aspect of design and build – from sales to project management to customer service – will be beneficial to the program this year.

"I understand what my clients are going through and hope to share those experiences with my colleagues," she added.



Robert Cooper, White Oak Construction, Indianapolis

Originally starting out as a carpenter in 2002 in the U.K., Robert Cooper "naturally progressed" to a sales and managerial role because he enjoyed the ability to work with his clients directly.

"Carpentry had its fair share of problem solving, but I wanted a role where I could reach a solution quicker and more effectively to help my customers," he explained. "I had used a lot of new products while in the field and felt this would put me in position to sell the benefits of the new technology."

Moving on Up. Cooper transitioned into his role as director of business development in the U.S. just nine months after joining White Oak Construction – in part because of his dedication to researching and pricing potential bids.

"It took me two months of research and conversation with multiple companies and organizations to correctly construct my first bid, which we won," he said. "I think the reason I was able to progress quickly was down to my experience in sales and business development."

Universal and Green Pursuits. Cooper achieved both the Certified Green Professional and Certified Aging in Place Specialist qualifications in 2014.

"As the Baby Boomer population ages and has to make decisions regarding their living situations and care, my goal is to educate this group of people and their children on the options they have that will enable them to stay in their homes," he explained. "I would love the opportunity to conduct some workshops for communities to help educate them on their options – more specifically the products that are available to them and what they should be looking for in a contractor."



Cooper worked on an aging-in-place bathroom (below left), which included a zero-threshold, custom-tiled shower; grab bars; a barrier-free mud pan; custom corner seat; and accessible doorways.

KBIS and 30 Under 30. His KBIS 2016 Voices from the Industry session – Tough Conversations: How To Navigate Customers' Apprehensions Toward Accessibility – will discuss the stigma "if it is accessible, it will look institutional." He and his team hope prove otherwise.

In terms of the 30 Under 30 program, Cooper plans to bring a different outlook to the group with his carpentry background and being from the U.K.

"I hope that my fellow 30 under 30s will find my knowledge and experience useful – especially in the aging-in-place marketplace," he added.



Jordan Parisse, Ferrarini Kitchen & Bath, Elkin Park, Pa.

Early on in his career, Jordan Parisse decided to focus his attention on the primary construction trades: carpentry, electrical, plumbing and HVAC.

"I have always felt that electricity is the heart and flowing veins of any structure, and carpentry is the bones that holds it all together," he explained. "I have always been intrigued by the effect and impact a new lighting design could have on a space and its ability to turn even the most ordinary of spaces into one with a completely different vibe and energy (no pun intended)."

Speech, Speech!. Parisse was the Keynote Speaker for the Construction Management Class of 2015 at Temple University's Fox School of Business. He shared his personal keys to success – networking and forming strategic partnerships, as well as managing expectations.

"The success and growth of any business can be heavily attributed to its ability to create opportunity, leverage resources and meet expectations," he added. "I also stressed the importance of continuing education and that the pursuit of knowledge is never ending. There is a direct correlation between one's level of success and one's level of education and competency."

He plans to pursue more trade licensing qualilfications, including a Master Plumber's License and BIM and NKBA certifications.

Paying it Forward. Because he believes in giving back to the community in which he lives, Parisse is actively involved in Jump Start Germantown, a community revitalization initiative with the goal of rejuvenating the area's local resources and neighborhood.

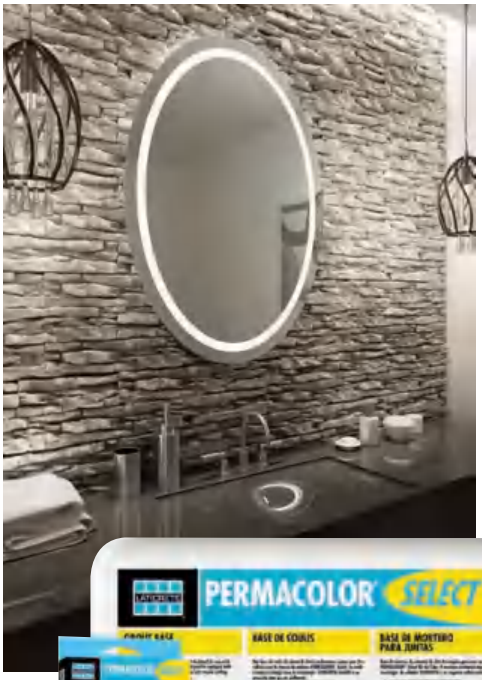
His own personal project – Trades for a Difference – is a construction trade job skills training and mentorship program for at-risk youth and young adults in Philadelphia and its surrounding suburbs.

"Our focus is to help our men-tees tap untapped potential while also giving them income-producing trade skills," explained Parisse. "We equip them the ability to create executable ideas for use in the creation of business plans and educate them in such areas as credit repair and maintenance and loan and financing navigation.

30 Under 30. He feels he can bring to the group insight from multiple sides of the spectrum – having been a tradesman, project manager, salesman, lighting designer and entrepreneur.

"I want to continue to bring unison among the two worlds of tradesperson and designer and aid in maximizing the cohesiveness, efficiencies and effectiveness of the design-build processes," he added.

Product Peek



Saturn, an LED backlit mirror from **Aamsco**, is illuminated through an interior, circular border. It is surface mounted, conforms to ADA guidelines and offers 30,000 hours of life.



Aston has released a collection of eight 72-in. frameless shower doors and enclosure models made with 3/8-in. ANSI-certified clear tempered glass. Shown here, the Langham models feature a four-wheel roller system style.



Permacolor from **Laticrete** is the industry's first dispersible pigment grout solution with the largest, most consistent color range on the market in a cement-based system. The product comes in two parts: a Color Kit and the Permacolor Select Base Powder.



Native Trails is expanding its Vintner's Collection with the Bordeaux Wall Mount in an anvil finish. Revisiting an authentic piece of California's wine country, the sink is made from oak wine barrels and staves that have outlived their original five-year lifespan.



Ergonomically contoured for ease and comfort, the Washlet C100 from **TOTO** has a slender profile and is activated by an easy-to-read control panel. Users can control the temperature and pressure of aerated water, a self-cleaning dual-action spray wand and a heated seat.

You can research these and other confirmed exhibiting brands at http://www.kbis.com.

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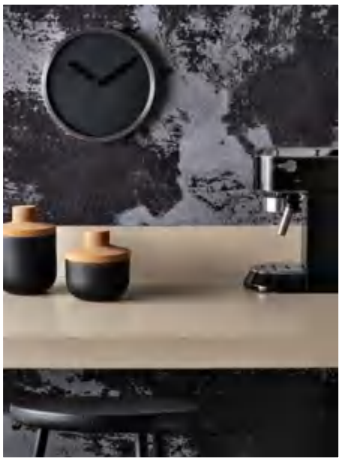
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Drills from the **Millner-Haufen Tool Company** work well in materials ranging from porcelain tile, quartz, marble and stainless steel. Shown here is the 13-Piece Multi-Purpose Drill Bit Set, which runs ⅛-in. to ½-in. by 1/32-in. increments.



As **Caesarstone**'s answer to the ever-growing industrial trend, the Raw Concrete (shown here), Sleek Concrete and Fresh Concrete colors emulate the raw look and coarse texture of concrete. These colors are a part of 10 new colors added to the Classico Collection.





Using a century-old Aquaforte etching technique, SIAM from **Artistic Tile** uses an Art Deco motif in a lightly textured, golden metallic wall tile.

From **Rubi by Soligo**, the Sakai is a professional-style kitchen faucet with an oversized hand spray with a variable flow rate. The faucet is available in brushed nickel or chrome.





The Modular 3000 Series 24-in. Refrigerator Drawer Model from **U-Line** ensures that food and beverages are well preserved in an environment with large capacities and enhanced accessibility. These models maintain temperature to within one degree of the set point to maximize preservation.

Constructed from sustainably harvested wood, the Urbandale ready-to-assemble cabinet from **FX Cabinets Warehouse** boasts a Northern American maple make in a recessed simple Shaker panel. The cabinet is 100 percent free of particleboard, and many styles use water-based finishes.



You can research these and other confirmed exhibiting brands at http://www.kbis.com.





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2015 product innovator awards

By Chelsie Butler

K+BB proudly announces the winners of its 2015 Product Innovators Awards competition. The judges were tasked with choosing the winning products out of 130+ innovative kitchen and bathroom submissions. Awards go to both the Kitchen Product of the Year and the Bathroom Product of the Year, and two products were given an Honorable Mention. Still popular in its third year is a "Judges' Picks" category, where the esteemed judges are able to make personal choices of products they felt were also worthy of recognition. Our panel of four experienced judges, who are experts in the kitchen and bath industry, is introduced on the right. Congratulations to this year's winners!



Nar Bustamante is president and principal designer for Nar Fine Carpentry, with locations in Carmichael and El Dorado Hills, Calif. He is known for his eclectic and artistic designs and has changed the design landscape of homes and kitchens in California. Nar has received more than 50 design awards, his work has been published in multiple magazines and blogs, and he is a member of *Kitchen + Bath Business* (*K+BB*) magazine's Editorial Advisory Board. With each of his projects, there is a progression of ideas developing from one to the other, yet never leaving room for predictability.



Miriam Weinreb Lissak is the president of New York City-based Weinreb Schultz Design Associates, and her new interior design company – MWL Design Group – is being launched this fall. Her portfolio includes high-end residential and corporate, commercial and specialty retail installations. She is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers and is NCIDQ certified. Miriam has won multiple awards and has been featured in such publications as *Architectural Digest, Interior Design, The New York Times* and *NYPost,* as well as on Bravo Network's "Property Envy."



Pamela K. Goldstein, CAPS/CMKBD/Allied ASID, is president of Atlanta-based Master Kitchen Bath Designer and Pam Sanchez Design. She serves as the vice chairman of the Education Committee for the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Home Builders; is a member of *K+BB*'s Editorial Advisory Board; and has served as chapter president for the National Kitchen and Bath Association's Georgia/Tennessee Chapter. Pam is an aging-in-place health educator and trainer and is collaborating on a book to educate adults about environmental home modifications for aging in place.



Chuck Wheelock, a 27-year kitchen industry veteran, is president of Wheelock Design Associates (formerly Wheelock Maidique) in Old Greenwich, Conn. His rebranded firm creates one-of-a-kind kitchen, bath and home designs with unique characteristics that exude a client's lifestyle and personality. The full-service firm is vertically integrated to offer clients appliances, as well as expanded capacity to accommodate new private-label cabinetry designs. Wheelock has corporate, educational and residential architectural design experience in the U.S. and Middle East and is also a member of *K+BB*'s Editorial Advisory Board..







Wood Grain Powder Coat Finishes
by Danver Stainless Outdoor Kitchens

These new wood grain finishes emulate the warmth and look of real wood without the typical maintenance issues of warping, splitting or cracking and can be used in exterior and interior applications. Traditional wood can swell and contract when used outside – depending on the weather – but now there is another solution to having to cover or seal real wood outdoors. The finishes are available in a variety of options, including chestnut, cherry flame, American maple, bamboo, white wood, table beech, burlwood and teak, and the price varies on project size. Designed by the company's president, Mitch Slater, the finishes are made from stainless steel and then finished with powder coat paints for a maintenance-free wood style that is available with Danver and Brown Jordan Outdoor Kitchens door styles. The judges appreciated that this product can be easy to clean and maintain and that it gives an alternative to specifying stone outdoors.







Electronica Vision Wheel by Blu Bathworks

The Vision Wheel, a new addition to the company's Electronica Collection, is a Swiss-engineered, three-outlet thermostatic digital shower control. The judges were impressed that there are no mechanical valves or thermostat involved – it is all touch-control digital – and it's easy to navigate. According to Blu Bathworks, this product answers an increase in demand for smart home systems in the bathroom and allows the user to create personalized shower experiences. Innovative features include a colored LED ring that indicates water temperature and usage, as well as programmable presets for customization of temperature and flow rate. Vision Wheel is available in a high-gloss black or white fascia with a black, glossy LCD screen and retails for $1,775 for the interface (plus $3,640 for the digital thermostatic valve). The valve features Fluehs ceramic cartridges, an anti-scald safety stop and multiple back-up microprocessors.

Galley Ideal Workstation

by The Galley





The Galley Workstation is a functional place for prepping, serving, entertaining and clean up – indoors or out – all in one convenient place. It is available in six standard sizes, as a single- or double-bowl model, and can be specially ordered in custom sizes. The workstation, which ranges in price from $2,195-$8,345, includes a culinary kit available in black or white high-density resin or natural bamboo. The kit contains one or more of a variety of accessories, including cutting boards, stainless steel colanders and lidded bowls with custom platforms, drain racks and Ideal Flow drain covers. The judges feel this product allows homeowners to entertain in a novel way and loved the idea of prepping in or over the sink without having to clean off countertops afterward.





QuickDrain USA's WallDrain

The innovative WallDrain sits flush along the shower wall of the shower – eliminating the harsh look of a traditional shower drain. Designed by Josef Erlebach, the product ranges in price from $1,390 for the 48-in. model to $1,830 for the 72-in. model. According to QuickDrain USA, it has patented a slope trough for the WallDrain to ensure that all water and debris are removed after each use, and no other drain manufacturer offers this. The judges also said they have seen nothing else like it on the market. It is easy to install, and the company offers length adjustability for an exact fit with trough extensions. The cover is removable with magnets, and water passes under the cover instead of over it – making it easy to clean.



Jenn-Air's **Obsidian Refrigerator**

Chuck Wheelock is impressed by Jenn-Air being first to market with an industry-exclusive refrigerator interior in deep charcoal color versus standard white. It showcases food while making colors vivid.

Michael Berman Graceline Faucet by ROHL

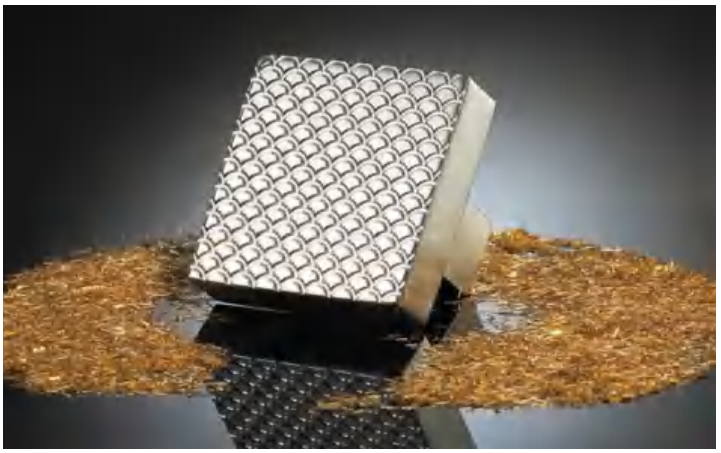
Nar Bustamante says this bathroom fixture is flat-out gorgeous, elegant and edgy – and he loves it! It features a long, graceful arch, as well as lever- or dial-shaped handles reminiscent of ship cleats.





KOHLER's **Choreograph System**

Pam Goldstein appreciates that this is a DIY product to install in an existing shower to refresh, organize and add safety features, including shower wall panels, accent panels, organizing solutions, stability products and seating (universal design features).



Joseph Ruefelli by Colonial Bronze

Nar Bustamante feels this kitchen hardware collection is a gem of art pieces – modern yet classic. According to the company, it is the first customizable decorative hardware available anywhere and can be vertically or horizontally oriented.

Poetto Culinary Kitchen Faucet by California Faucets

Miriam Lissak feels this product is unrivaled; it is not only great looking but has useful features and coordinating accessories. Being able to customize this elegant and functional semi-professional faucet is unique and otherwise unavailable.



Cascara by MTI Baths



Pam Goldstein loves the tub's functional wide ledge (universal design feature) as a seat for entry and exit, and she says the company will install curved grab bars on opposite inner walls to allow for stable movement inside and out.

Reality Sink by RCKsinks

Miriam Lissak experienced an "a-ha" moment with this sink and marvels that it had not yet been introduced. She appreciates being able to conceal the dish drainer below the counter line with an integrated, low-profile rack while still maintaining a nice, usable kitchen sink.





P`7350 Design by Poggenpohl & Porsche Design Studio

Nar Bustamante chose this because he says mitered frameless cabinetry is such a rare, fine, elegant touch. According to Poggenpohl, it is the first kitchen manufacturer to produce this finish with the aid of leading-edge, high-precision manufacturing techniques.



Spice Rack Storage System by Dropout Cabinet Fixtures

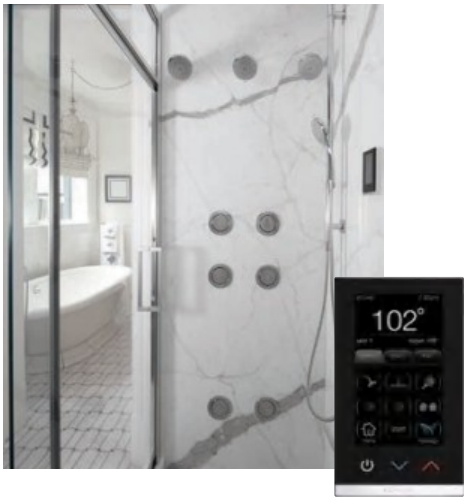
Pam Goldstein appreciates that the hardware of this shelf-filled wall pullout column comes out and down to the user, allowing counter storage to stay in place. It is great for universal design applications because it brings high items down for easy and safe access.

Perlick's Signature Series Sottile Wine Reserve



According to Chuck Wheelock, this is the only 18-in. undercounter unit that includes a refrigerator, beverage center and a wine reserve. It is ideal for slim islands, credenzas and cabinetry and provides flexibility without sacrificing storage capacity.

KOHLER's DTV+ Digital Showering System



Miriam Lissak appreciates this all-in-one unit with so much flexibility; it is completely digital, aesthetically pleasing and functional. It adds technology to plumbing for everyday use.



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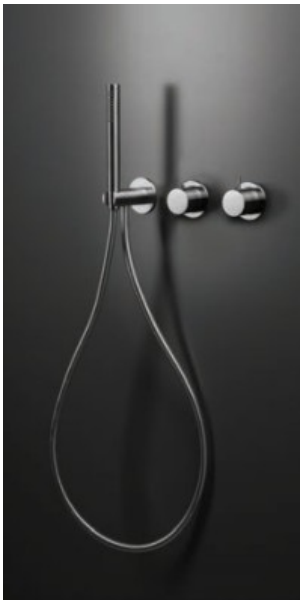
Pam Goldstein says this product is a game changer for countertop installation, giving clean aesthetics with hidden safety and structural integrity. She feels it can replace steel rods and corbels.





Broan's Sensonic Speaker Fan

"A Bluetooth speaker device in the bathroom? YES!" said Nar Bustamante. "You know we all like to rock out here!" This affordable fan also provides powerful but quiet ventilation in a sleek, minimal design.



Victoria + Albert's Ionion

Chuck Wheelock likes this freestanding tub's compact footprint for smaller spaces. Its subtle, oval silhouette and clean lines give it an understated, modern edge. Cast in volcanic limestone, he says it speaks to him on a spiritual, island level.

INOX Stainless Steel Shower System by Blu Bathworks

Chuck Wheelock appreciates this shower system's sleek Italian style with stacking diverter valves for vertical or horizontal installations and its modern, minimal look. Its modular design allows for a personalized showering experience.



KOHLER's Veil Intelligent Toilet

According to Miriam Lissak, this is technology-meets-plumbing; it is multifunctional and beautiful to look at – far away from the traditional lines of a toilet and bidet. It offers a touch screen and hands-free operation and is hygienic and state of the art.

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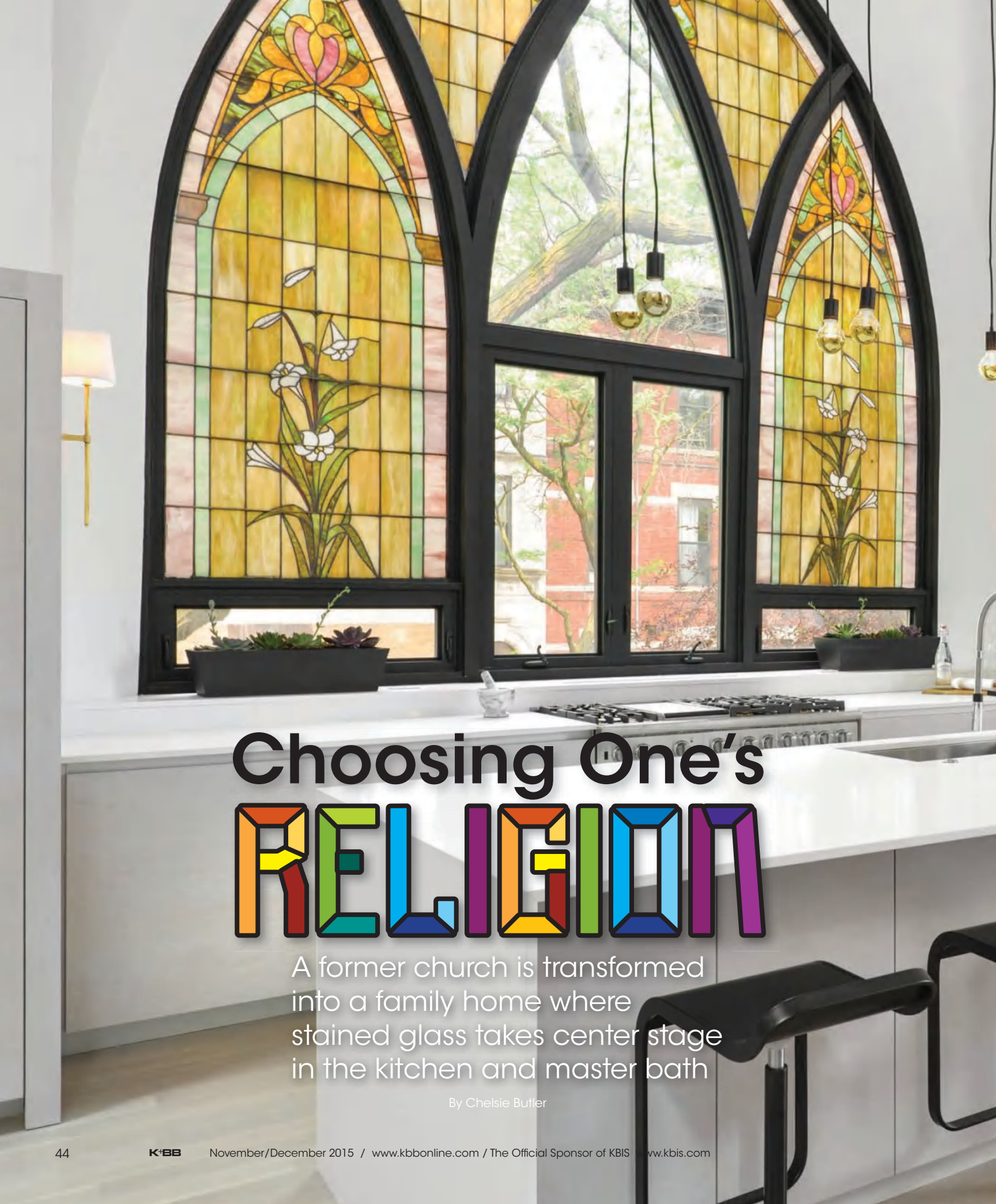
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Choosing One's RELIGION

A former church is transformed into a family home where stained glass takes center stage in the kitchen and master bath

By Chelsie Butler





A young, adventurous family with three children were looking for a livable and fun home in which their children could grow up. A former church in Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood turned out to be their sweet spot when it was converted into a single-family home. Original details, such as stained-glass windows, exposed brickwork and ceiling turnbuckles, were included in the design of many of the rooms, including the kitchen and master bath.

Linc Thelen Design and Scrafano Architects – both based in Chicago – led the 8,000-sq.-ft. project, which included leveling the former floors, raising the ceiling from 18 to 25 feet and exposing the beams in the attic.

"We built a model so we could see how everything would intersect and what the ceiling would look like," said designer, Linc Thelen. "There were some things we were not sure of until demo, and we discovered things we could do later on, such as add a set of stairs going through the nursery and incorporate custom bookcases."

The wife loved the look of the loft space and high ceilings, but she also wanted some elements of a traditional home. It was also necessary for the open space to incorporate smaller, functional spaces like the laundry room on the main floor and a playroom in the attic.

Cooking Kitchen

The wife wanted the house to be a mixture of modern, industrial and even some shabby chic, but Thelen toned down this combination in the kitchen and adjoining main room, which are sleek and modern. The massive stained-glass window anchors the space, and because upper cabinets would have competed with it, the design team had to make up for the lack of storage space.



The tub in the master bath sits under a cathedral window – one of several in the home.



Thelen designed all of the cabinetry, which includes white lacquered units adjacent to the kitchen to give the area a built-in look and not compete with the other elements on that side of the house. The hickory wood cabinets in the main kitchen space have single doors that open up as drawers.

"Going with real wood cabinets gave me the ability to stain them exactly the color I wanted, which took a while to nail down," he said. "All of the finishes in the home were hand selected with much consideration."

White quartz waterfall countertops blend nicely with the white oak flooring in a custom white-wash stain and the earthy, cool gray cabinets. A 48-in. refrigerator/freezer on the left side of the kitchen is balanced by a 48-in. pantry on the right. The large island houses the dishwasher, sink, beverage center and a large trash unit. The kitchen design called for larger-than-usual appliances and a 12-ft. island to appropriately fill the massive space; the back wall between the refrigerator and pantry is 16 feet long.

One challenge in the kitchen was that there was no upper space for venting above the industrial range. To overcome this, the team built a downdraft to function for the unit. They put an external blower on the outside of the kitchen, and the HVAC contractor custom built the ductwork. The grill/vent cover was also custom built.

Another challenge in the kitchen was providing ample lighting in the space. According to Thelen, the ceiling is pitched at a weird angle, and there are no flat surfaces to install fixtures there. He designed and built a fixture above the island that hangs from a platform attached to the wood beams above. The independent pendants feature industrial-style mercury bulbs.

Magnificent Master

The master bath (above and left) was designed to be elegant yet modern, which was accomplished with clean-looking wall tiles, a curbless shower, floating cabinets and sconces that warm up the masculine space. Thelen says the hardware is the jewel on the cabinets, which all feature drawers inside. The 3-in. polished-nickel fixtures are similar to a doorknocker in style. The luxurious "wet room" features a handheld and wall-mounted showerhead, as well as a 12-in. recessed showerhead.

One challenge in the master bath was with the first choice in floor tile. The porcelain material caused a lot of the tiles to bow and not lean properly in the desired brick-like pattern. Thelen and his team had to tear out the whole floor and choose a different tile, which is a white onyx.

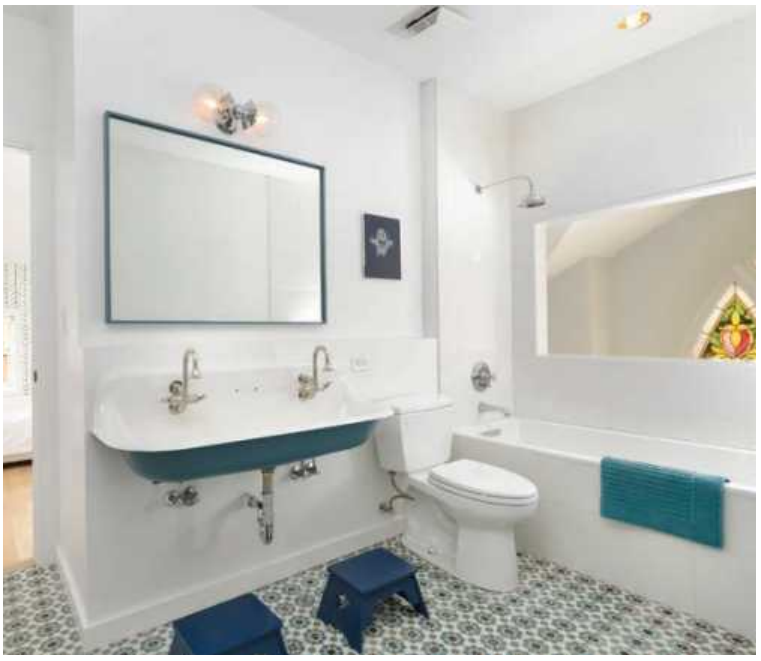
Boy's Bathroom

The bathroom and adjoining bedroom were designed to convert to a master bath if it was ever necessary to have one on the second floor.

The vanity base in "his" bathroom is built out of steel framing with a reclaimed wood shelf for storage. A variation of subway tile was used for the walls, and a convenient fold-down bench makes the shower space more accessible. The sconces and plumbing fixtures are in a unifying gold/orange finish.



The boy's bathroom features a custom steel vanity base fabricated by Stans Welding, and the vanity shelf was built with old timbers from the former church.



Powder Room

According to Thelen, this was one of the most interesting spaces in the home. Its small size and low ceilings had his client concerned, but he was confident it would end up being beautiful. The walls are lined in white burlap with a decorative fringe designed by Anna Wolfson, and the wall-mounted toilet and floating vanity add to the illusion of more space.

Laundry Room

Located on the first floor next to the powder room, the laundry room features a playful vibe with orange-patterned wallpaper and added color. Because his client likes a variety of styles, Thelen chose a farmhouse feel with black slate floors, an oak countertop and a farmhouse sink.

Jack & Jill Bath

In this bathroom (above), the designer wanted to show off the stained-glass window, which is part of the master bedroom on the first floor.

"I opened up the bathtub south wall – creating an opening to view the window," said Thelen. "I went with a sleek, light tile for the tub area so as not to compete with the stained glass."

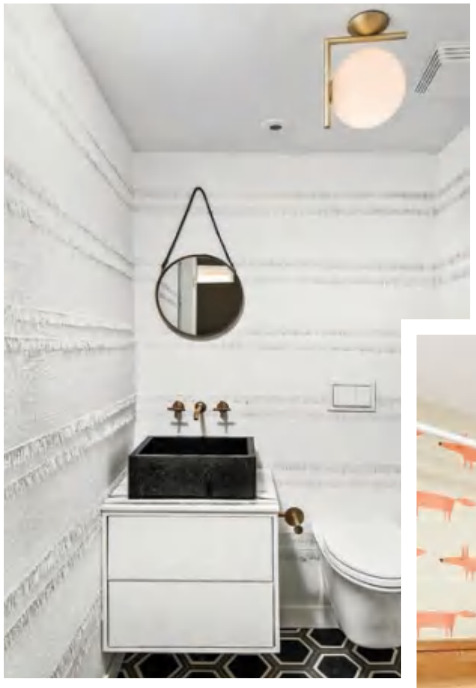
The flooring is a colorful cement tile, and the double utility sink from Kohler features a matching green-colored underside.

In terms of lessons learned from this project, Thelen says to do your homework.

"Surround yourself with good people and professionals," he added. "Don't go it alone; have someone else with whom you can collaborate."

He appreciated that his client liked to push the envelope and that she was helpful during the project, saying she was concerned about how the kitchen would function from day one but that she trusted him.

"All of my clients help, and I like to hear from them," said Thelen. "They are supposed to love the end result, so it is important to know what they are going to love about it ahead of time." ■





The powder room sink base is a black-honed granite piece custom made by Jesse Stone. The flooring is a cement tile in a hex pattern, and the wall-mounted gold faucet is from Kohler.



Brightly colored wallpaper adds some whimsy to the laundry room.

sources:

Architect: *Scrafano Architects;* ***Designer:*** *Linc Thelen, Linc Thelen Design;* ***Photographer:*** *Jim Tschetter/IC360 Images*

Kitchen: ***Beverage Center, Icemaker & Refrigerator:*** *GE;* ***Cabinet Inserts:*** *Häfele;* ***Cabinets:*** *Custom Designed & Fabricated by Home Things;* ***Countertops:*** *Caesarstone;* ***Dishwasher & Range:*** *Viking;* ***Faucet:*** *Blanco;* ***Island Light Fixture:*** *Designed & Fabricated by Linc Thelen;* ***Stools:*** *Design Within Reach;* ***Vent/Grill Cover:*** *C&B Welders*

Master Bath: ***Cabinets:*** *Designed & Fabricated by Home Things;* ***Countertops:*** *Caesarstone;* ***Floor & Wall Tile:*** *TransCeramica;* ***Shower Faucet:*** *Porcelanosa;* ***Tub & Tub Faucet:*** *Kohler;* ***Vanity Faucets:*** *Waterworks;* ***Wall Sconces:*** *Circa Lighting*

Powder Room: ***Faucet:*** *Kohler;* ***Floor Tiles:*** *Cementtileshop.com;* ***Sink Base:*** *Custom Made by Jesse Stone;* ***Vanity:*** *Designed & Built by Linc Thelen;* ***Wallcovering:*** *Handmade & Installed by Anna Wolfson*

Boy's Bath: ***Countertops:*** *Caesarstone;* ***Floor Tile:*** *Ann Sacks;* ***Lighting:*** *Restoration Hardware;* ***Shower & Vanity Faucet:*** *Kohler;* ***Vanity Base:*** *Fabricated by Stans Welding;* ***Wall Cabinet:*** *Designed & Built by Linc Thelen;* ***Wall Tile:*** *Porcelanosa*

Jack & Jill Bath: ***Faucets & Sink:*** *Kohler;* ***Floor Tile:*** *Cementtileshop.com;* ***Lighting:*** *Hinkley Lighting;* ***Tub Faucet:*** *Newport Brass;* ***Wall Tile:*** *TransCeramica*



Warming up the WHITE

Miami's modern trend takes on a spin with natural materials

By Erinn Waldo

With its upscale metropolitan culture, Miami homes are right on top of the white, minimalist trend – so much so that clients request few other styles.

"As designers, we like every project to be different," said designer German Brun of Miami-based DEN Architecture, who worked in collaboration with his wife and business partner, Lizmarie Esparza, on this project. "We felt like there was enough white in Miami already."

Client in Distress

Before hiring the DEN Architecture team, the client had worked with a decorator who believed an unsightly column in the kitchen had to stay and instead suggested covering it in mirror. After Brun and his team took over, everyone on the project still thought the unfortunate column was structural until demo began – revealing a sewer pipe from the upstairs bathroom instead.

"What started out as a kitchen remodel ended up being a two-bathroom-plus-kitchen remodel," said Brun. "In the kitchen, we just had to thicken up a side wall to put in a sewer pipe, creating a two- or three-tier soffit in the ceiling."

The soffits were designed in tiers so that the wall looks purposeful and works with the full-height pantry. Working on a grid, recessed lighting assisted in concealing the P-traps from the sewer pipes in the soffit system and facilitated the clean look the clients ultimately wanted.

Fulfilling Wishes First

With the client set on a glossy white aesthetic, the design team first set out to fulfill that aspect of the project. The custom-built cabinets have the quintessential plywood box structure and European-style fronts, which are made with thermofoil. By enveloping the fronts in a type of plastic, the cabinets have a maintenance-free enclosure with no obvious edges.

Wood uses a veneer, and where the cabinet sides meet at the corners the cabinet can be weak. The thermafoil technique eliminates that weakness. Since it operates on a push-pull magnetic system, the cabinetry lacks pulls or handles for a steamlined look.

"It's easy to maintain, but it can be soiled faster as well," explained Brun. "The client has two children, so we'll get the report card in a year."

Convincing the Client

While giving the client this minimal aesthetic, Brun and his team also worked to show how other local influences could better the design.

"We like to design spaces that talk about the location they're in," said Brun. "Miami is so lush with vegetation and all kinds of wood that we thought introducing a natural material, like a butcher block, was a way to warm up the white cabinetry all around."

Amid the modern white space, an island made entirely of butcher block – including the cabinet fronts, faces and drawers – is the kitch-



Before the redesign, this unsightly column (above) was thought to be structural and therefore permanent. Demo revealed that it only contained a sewer pipe.



Thermofoiled, glossy white cabinets are opened with a push-pull mechanism. The only handles in the kitchen are hidden on the backside of the island.



Helping to warm up the minimalist design, this butcher-block island is made from inexpensive material from Ikea. It transitions the kitchen to the living space and provides a gathering area in between.



The island has 45-degree angles to suit the rest of the kitchen's mitered edges.

en's centerpiece. Because everything had mitered edges in the kitchen, crafting the island was a challenge. Since a mitered edge requires a perfect cut for a tight joint, many pieces had to be meticulously sanded down to fit the final 45-degree angle of bevel throughout the island. There is a waterfall feature on either side, along with a space for stools on one side and drawers on the other.

The designers also convinced the client of one other addition: a floating shelf.

"Since the clients are so minimalist, they didn't want any type of backsplash to distract from the white," said Brun, "So we suggested at least some type of shelving to fill the wall a little."

Even with its high-gloss finish, the floating shelf helps fill in the empty space and encourages decoration. A quartz countertop, also in high-gloss white, completes the minimal look.

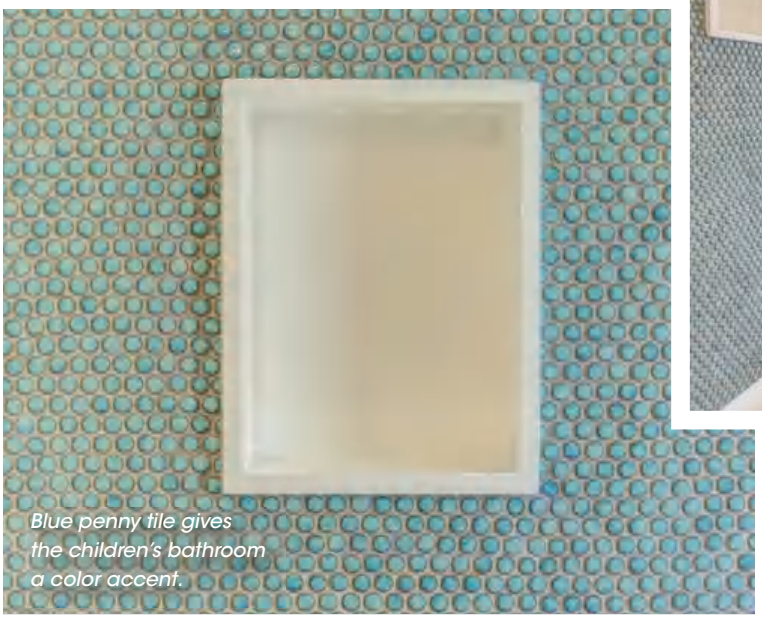
Working in the Baths

With the additional bathroom remodels on their plate, the design team had the same goal: Fill the client's wishes and still break away from the pack.

"In the children's bathroom, we decided to add a punch of color – in this case, blue," said Brun, indicating the wall of blue penny tile behind the tub.

Large-format, white subway tile makes up the flooring and matches the white subway tile around the tub area. All the vanities are undermount for maintenance purposes and keep the whole counter accessible. To accommodate the children, the vanities are also slightly lower than usual, and the faucets are deck mounted and simple to operate.

"For their own bath, the clients wanted a full-height mirror with wall-mounted faucets, which is definitely harder to build than your standard," said Brun, explaining that the glass subcontractor had to cut the glass



Blue penny tile gives the children's bathroom a color accent.



twice because he was off by half an inch. "It has to be perfect, or the mirror will reflect any imperfection back at you, and you'll be reminded every day what's wrong with the installation."

The only accent wall for these minimalists is an Italian porcelain tile in a rectangular format on a shower wall, which gives the space some depth. A frameless, tempered glass shower enclosure surrounds the shower.

"We added special touches here and there, such as the quartz shower curve," he added. "This gives it a monolithic look and prevents moisture intrusion to the rest of the bathroom."

Cutting the Budget

In the end, the construction budget was half of what the clients were originally given by the previous decorator. The DEN Architecture team puts that success down to their staff of both architects and general contractors.

"We had a better feel for what things would cost," said Brun. "In this case we were able to cut that budget in half just by changing materials and making adjustments here and there, which aren't even noticeable."

Instead of considering flashy solutions like the mirror-clad column the decorator suggested, the team considered budget from day one. For example, the butcher-block island was made from inexpensive material purchased at Ikea.

"There are many adjustments we made for the design that we consider improvements, and they were all cost-conscious decisions," said the designer. "It all worked out in the end. The spaces are show stoppers." ■



These mirror-mounted faucets were a challenge – the subcontractor had to cut the glass twice for a perfect fit.

sources:

Designer: *German Brun and Lizmarie Esparza, DEN Architecture*
Photography: *Greg Clark*
KITCHEN
Appliance Package: *Bosch;* ***Backsplash & Counters:*** *Compac Quartz in Absolut Blanc;* ***Butcher Block:*** *Ikea;* ***Cabinetry:*** *Custom-Made, European-Style with Doormark Thermofoil Faces;* ***Cabinetry Hardware:*** *Richelieu;* ***Faucet:*** *Bianco Linus Collection;* ***Floor Tile:*** *Imola Concrete Project;* ***Hood:*** *Zephyr;* ***Recessed Lighting:*** *Halo;* ***Sink:*** *Elkay 3322 Gourmet*
KIDS' BATHROOM
Bathtub: *American Standard Ameri-Cast;* ***Faucets:*** *Grohe Essence;* ***Floor Tile:*** *Merola White Square Mosaic;* ***Sinks:*** *Kohler K-2882;* ***Toilet:*** *Toto;* ***Ventilation:*** *Panasonic Whisper Green;* ***Wall Accent Tile:*** *Merola Blue Penny Tile;* ***Wall Field Tile:*** *Hammersmith Subway Tile;*
MASTER BATHROOM
Bathtub: *American Standard Ameri-Cast;* ***Faucets:*** *Delta;* ***Floor Tile:*** *Merola White Square Mosaic;* ***Ventilation:*** *Panasonic Whisper Green;* ***Wall Accent Tile:*** *Imola Porcelain Tile;* ***Wall Field Tile:*** *Hammersmith Subway Tile;*

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What's Hot in *Ranges & Ventilation and Bathroom Faucets & Sinks*



For a timeless yet low-profile look, **Zephyr**'s ICON Touch Controls are integrated into the hood's form and combine with LED lighting in several colors. These diffused LED lights create accent lighting with even distribution, as opposed to bright hot spots.



Time, a single-hole lavatory faucet from **Aquabrass**, brings together a circular body with a sleek, flat spout. Evoking the dial of a timepiece, the lever releases cold water at four o'clock and hot water at eight o'clock. Made in Italy, Time retails at $529.65 in polished chrome.



GE's new freestanding ranges include edge-to-edge cooktops as well as Bluetooth technology and a dual-purpose burner that gives the option of an oval or round burner. This will accommodate a Dutch oven or an extra-large, integrated griddle.



Featuring a sleek design, the **Electrolux** front-controlled freestanding gas range can easily replace a back-control freestanding range with a built-in look. The oven comes with convection technology, an oval burner, a griddle and a Perfect Taste Temp Probe that monitors cooking food.



The new Loft bathroom Collection from **American Standard** includes two rectangular lavatory sinks crafted from fine fire clay. Shown here, one model features a one-hole ledge and overflow opening for single-handle faucet installation, while the other has no ledge or holes and can accommodate a vessel faucet.



The Deco line from Italian manufacturer **Tecnogas SUPERIORE** is available in 36- and 48-in. models and is inspired from 20th-century Italian art. Designers and consumers can customize these appliances with a variety of matte options available, including classic black, brown, red or cream, as well as a choice of brass, gold or chrome trim.

Inspired by the original wood-burning stoves, the **Bertazzoni** Heritage Series boasts bright chrome finishes combined with brushed stainless steel trim and three matte color options. This 36-in. ventilation hood has mesh filters with a base assembly in stainless steel and a canopy in a matching color.





Designed by Victor Vasilev, the Kupa Washbin from **Boffi** is rectangular but slightly rounded around the corners. Inside the basin, the drain is set in the transversal lowered part of the basin itself.



Dacor's 36-in. Discovery iQ Dual-Fuel Range gives cooks the ability to download recipes and program cooking settings in the oven. With the app, users can preheat remotely and also monitor cook time and temperature.



Available in a chrome finish, the Via bathroom collection from **Moen** features a variety of angular lines, including a D-shaped base, a simplified spout and a horizontal, flat handle. Single-handle models offer red and blue temperature indicators.





The Italian-made INOX stainless steel, single-hole, floor-mount sink faucet from **Blu Bathworks** features a swan-neck spout design with a recessed aerator. Standing at 45 inches, including a ½-in. decorative trim, the basin spout is designed for pedestal sink applications.

Big Chill has unveiled the Classic Series, a line of appliances that combine industrial details with a fresh, modern look. Offered in a 30-in. range and a coordinating ventilation collection, the series is available in six colors and four metal trim options.



Drawing inspiration from the classic trestle table, the Arden Collection from **Waterworks** boasts a minimal but bold look with a touch of nature. The solid white oak base is finished with a conversion varnish for protection and can be paired with vessel sinks and wall-mounted fittings.



The **SMEG** Pro-style Aesthetic Line, 36-in. all-gas range comes with three cooking modes: gas, convection and broil, as well as defrost and a fan option for static gas. There are four shelf positions and an air-cooled, triple-glazed, removable door and heavy-duty, cast-iron gates.

Delta Faucet Company's first joystick lavatory faucet, the Tesla Collection, draws from gently curved, organic shapes found in nature. Paired with TempSense Technology, an LED light at the base of the faucet changes from blue to magenta to red to indicate water temperature.





Designed for minimalist settings, **MTI Baths**' new Boutique Collection Vanity Sinks are available in 12 variations (Parsons style shown) with squared legs or a more modern waterfall style with solid sides. Also available is a floating shelf, which comes in four lengths up to 48 inches.



LG is introducing six new cooking ranges that feature the company's ProBake Convection technology. By moving the heating element from the bottom of the oven to the back wall, there is consistent heating on the top and bottom of every dish.



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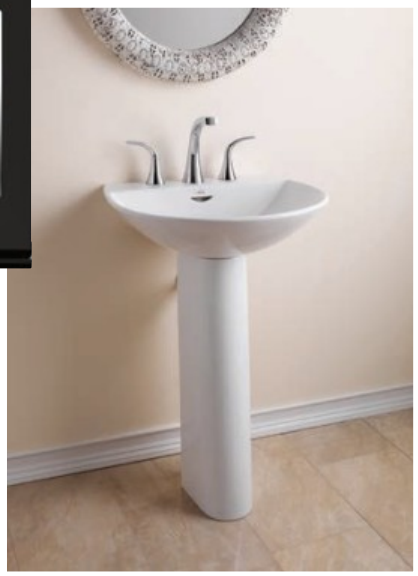
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KitchenAid has introduced a new collection of major appliances in a black stainless steel finish. This finish combines the luster of brushed steel with a warm neutral tone that adapts to various designs and decreases the appearance of fingerprints.



Barclay's Reserva Pedestal Lavatory has a semi-circular bowl with an unobtrusive, crescent-shaped overflow slot. The pedestal can be accented with a single hold, a 4-in. center-set or an 8-in. widespread faucet.



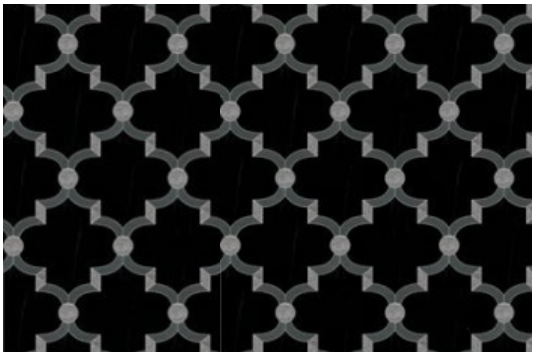
BlueStar's new RNB commercial gas range features full-width doors and windows, a one-piece control panel and a two-piece body side. A new grease pan design and simplified burners make for easy clean up.



The **ROHL** Perrin & Rowe Deco Bath Collection uses the octagon as the foundation of the collection's design. An Art Deco-inspired font is also featured on the hot and cold indicators on the faucet, tub filler and shower handles, as well as the trim plates.



What's Cool *Everywhere Else*



ANN SACKS introduces Union, a series that marries porcelain tile with stone detail. Shown here in the Arabian pattern, the design uses a water-jet technique to ensure minimal space between the grouting.



The Stoney Brooke Collection of textured finishes from **Medallion Cabinetry**, an Elkay brand, draws inspiration from nature's beauty. Crafted by dry-brushing several colored glazes onto a stained surface, the applications produce rich grays and browns.





Revisiting the concept of emblematic hardware, Signature doorknobs from **Haute Déco** can be personalized with engraved monograms, a family crest or another design. A crystal wrapper surrounds the engraving and keeps it subtle and fluid.



The Juala Pin Chandelier from **Meyda Custom Lighting** features 63 caged frames with exposed lamps displayed from within. Crafted in a copper rust finish and Edison incandescent bulbs, each luminaire is complemented with wooden handles and accents.

FDA approved for food contact, the Polymer HDPE Revolution panels from **Richelieu** are highly durable and will withstand sun, rain, snow, salt, water and temperatures varying from 200 degrees to -100 degrees. The panels can be crafted like traditional wood cabinets and come in a variety of colors.



Now that the kitchen is a place to socialize, **Planika** has introduced Chili Fire – a smokeless, odorless and ventless ethanol fireplace. The fireplace is equipped with a child lock and numerous sensors for safe usage.



Taking inspiration from sources like Hollywood Regency, Pop Art and Flower Power, the Tilt Collection of stoneware mosaic patterns from **Walker Zanger** can add a punch of color or create subtle geometric backdrops.

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Designers and Contractors Share Solutions for Their Biggest Kitchen & Bath Challenges

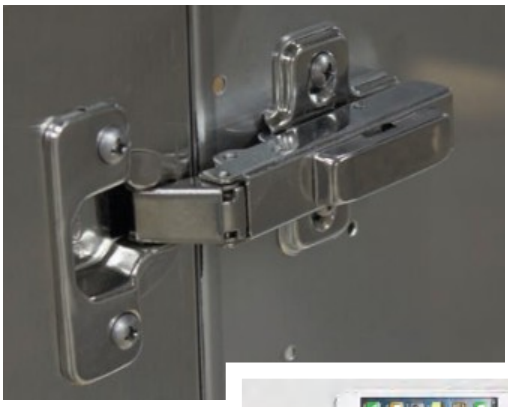
Do you ever wonder how industry peers deal with difficult situations during kitchen and bath projects? Two contractors and two designers will discuss how they overcome these setbacks – setting proper expectations up front, dealing with ever-increasing demands, presenting pricing, how to handle proper contracts and billing, creating a business model that works today, communicating with the confused customer and more – all in a professional manner.

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Danver Stainless Outdoor Kitchens has announced that soft-close hinges are now standard on all of its cabinet installations, including the Danver and Brown Jordan Outdoor Kitchens brand. With this introduction, Danver takes the details of an indoor kitchen and applies them outdoors.



From **Thermasol**, the ThermaTouch in-shower, 7-in. LCD touchscreen controller allows the user to access and personalize all aspects of their shower and steam environment. Options include steam duration, temperature setting, memorized pre-settings and a new visualization and sound effect experience.

The Peerless Pearl Stone faceplate from **LivingPlug** uses horizontal lines and muted tones for a subtle yet cogent visual. The faceplate comes with three child-safe outlets and an "unplug" button to save energy.





Designed for use in a wet room, the Vessel bathtub by **Splinter Works** and distributed by PSCBath is suspended from the walls and does not touch the floor, evoking a hammock. The bath is filled using a floor-standing tap, and the wastewater is released through the base into a floor drain.

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Millennial Mission

What the NKBA has learned about our industry's newest employees

What does the kitchen and bath industry look like to professionals under 35?

That's the question the National Kitchen & Bath Association set out to answer in a first-of-its-kind study of millennials working in the kitchen and bath industry.

Approximately 100 industry professionals under 35 completed an online survey that was followed by an in-depth discussion group of 11 designers. Half were between 30 and 34, and half were between 18 and 29. Half work for dealers and showrooms. Sixteen percent were independent designers, and nine percent own their own business. Others work within kitchen and bath firms such as retailers or manufacturers.

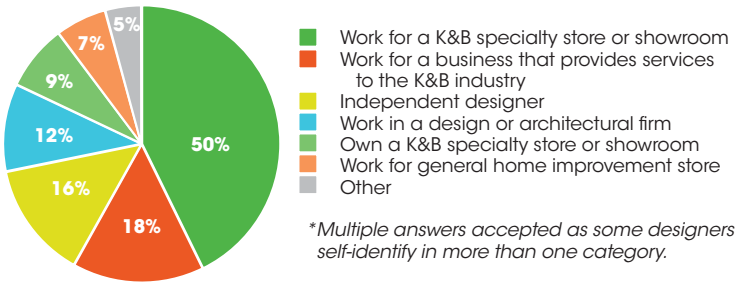
The biggest worry among industry millennials is shared with millennials across many industries: student loan debt. RICKI reports that 63 percent of this generation have a job – compared with 70 percent in 2007, before the recession hit.

The job motivation isn't just about the money, however. Having a job that benefits society is more important to this generation than having a successful, high-paying career (22 vs. 15 percent).

The biggest work challenge is also universal among this generation, not to mention generations past: being taken seriously at a young age. While understanding the need to work their way up, some feel they could be handling bigger jobs. "I end up being given work that no one else wants," said one respondent. Most referred to frustration with co-workers on this point, but one referenced clients as having a concern about youthful professionals. As one designer put it, "We need to change the notion that young means unqualified."

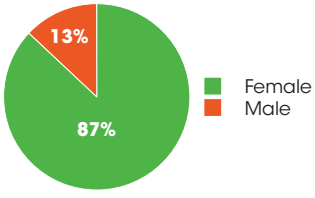
Respondent Profile (Online Survey)

TYPE OF BUSINESS

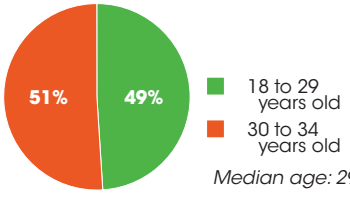


**Multiple answers accepted as some designers self-identify in more than one category.*

GENDER



AGE



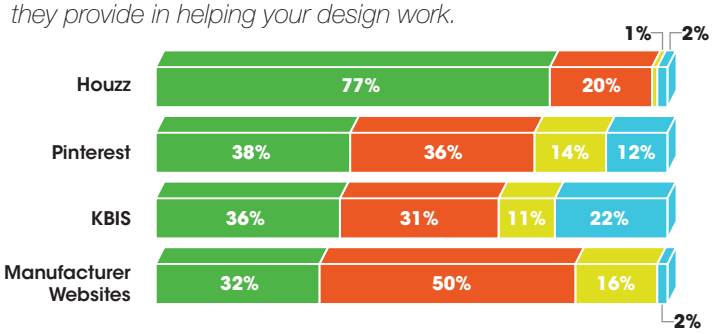
Median age: 29.4

Another challenge for millennials that is also shared across the generations is unrealistic customer expectations. To help address work challenges, a majority of our millennial panel had a mentor or mentors.

"I am so thankful that I started as a design assistant under a team of award-winning designers," said one respondent, noting that she was sent into the field to see installations and taught how to be a great problem solver.

Millenial Designers Say Houzz is Most Inspiring Followed by Pinterest & KBIS

Please rate the following based on how much inspiration they provide in helping your design work.



Other key findings include:

- Their top three sources for inspiration are Houzz, Pinterest and KBIS. KBIS is their top offline source for inspiration. Other offline sources are shelter and design magazines, both consumer and trade.
- They actively use social media for inspiration and collaboration. Fully 99 percent use Houzz, and 85 percent use Facebook and Pinterest. More of them reported using LinkedIn than Instagram (61 vs. 44 percent). Less than 30 percent reported using Twitter.
- 96 percent use design software.
- 73 percent use manufacturers' websites.

We also asked what they think about trade associations. Although we know them as the mobile generation (more than eight in 10 sleep with their cell phones within reach!), 40 percent of our respondents attend design and construction industry events "on a regular basis."

"Since we live in a metro area, there are a lot of great showrooms, speakers, hosts, etc., and I found the connections I did make to be extremely helpful," noted one respondent.

The NKBA will be making this report available to members shortly and will continue to explore what we need to do as an association and an industry to remain valued and relevant to the next generation. What are you planning to do in your business? ■

— By Bill Darcy, NKBA CEO

Data for infographics provided by the NKBA and RICKI.

K+BB GALLERY

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New England Cabana

A designer creates a poolside bar for multi-purpose entertaining

In or out of the kitchen, a bar offers an expanded entertainment space and the chance to further personalize a home. Functionality and food prep are still priorities in here, but flexibility often takes precedence.

"When designing a bar, ask a lot of questions about how the space can be used between entertaining and how the space will integrate into the clients' lives everyday," explained designer Ray Wiese of Sherborn, Mass.-based The Wiese Company.

Summer and Winter Space

Homeowners in Dover, Mass., brought Wiese on when they decided to install a pool area and a corresponding cabana. Tucked below a covered porch, a former tool storage area provided the ideal space.

"After looking at the area, which was adjacent to the basement family room, we made the look and feel outdoor/indoor but also made sure this space could be beneficial year round in our New England climate," he said.

With the pool out of the picture in the cold months, the team helped transition the space with a folding window – giving the homeowners the opportunity to keep the outdoors out or let it in. Two granite counters – one inside and one outside – face each other each so guests can sit together in the warmer months.

From Pizza to Pool Parties

For the space inside, the team was asked to make it weather proof, fit in a poolside bathroom/changing/laundry area and create a bar and snack kitchen – all of which should be scalable for anything from pizza at the kids' slumber parties to poolside entertaining.

"Just like kitchen and bath planning, in a bar there needs to be a dialogue of objectives outside of the professional's ergonomic and aesthetic skill set," explained Wiese, noting that he added lighter prep areas for lime slicing or setting out pizzas, as well as food and beverage storage for movie nights or pool parties.



Along with an adjoining bathroom, the bar area boasts an ice maker, dishwasher, microwave and refrigerator to provide for whatever event the homeowners host.



The indoor bar's driftwood cabinetry and granite countertops tie in the outdoors.

Complementing the blue walls, the cabinets have a driftwood finish, which Wiese says can be "trendy when out of context but works well in this room." A stainless steel backsplash connects with the stainless steel-framed refrigerator, while the granite countertops bring nature inside and echo the field stone of the exterior walls.

Open shelves offer space for bottle display and other personal touches. The adjacent bathroom pairs white with deep blue tile to match the bar area and includes a small shower for rinsing off after the pool. A television next to the bar entertains guests seated indoors or out.

"I especially love the orange door the missus requested," added Wiese, pointing out the bright door to the bathroom. "If a guest asks where the powder room is, there is no missing the door. Her husband commented after seeing it painted, 'When did we turn Dutch?'" ■

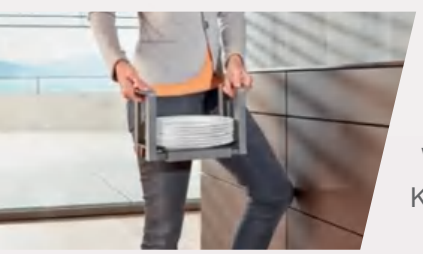
— By Erinn Waldo

sources:

Designer: *Ray Wiese, the Wiese Co.;* ***Photographer:*** *Dan Callahan*

Bath & Shower Floor Tile: *Akdo's Glow Moon;* ***Bath & Shower Walls:*** *California Art Tile;* ***Bath & Sink Faucet:*** *American Standard;* ***Bath Mirror & Decorative Lighting:*** *Restoration Hardware;* ***Cabinetry:*** *Showplace Wood Products;* ***Copper Roof:*** *Harvey Building Products;* ***Corbels:*** *ProWood Market;* ***Counters:*** *Ice Blue Granite from New View Marble & Granite;* ***Dishwasher:*** *Bosch;* ***Flooring:*** *Mirage Hardwood Floors;* ***Hardware:*** *Schaub & Co.;* ***Ice Maker:*** *KitchenAid;* ***Kitchen Backsplash:*** *Anatolia Tile & Stone;* ***Kitchen Faucet:*** *Hansgrohe;* ***Kitchen Sink:*** *Elkay;* ***Microwave:*** *GE;* ***Refrigerator:*** *Frigidaire;* ***Shower:*** *Grohe;* ***Toilet:*** *Toto;* ***Undercabinet Lighting:*** *Häfele;* ***Window:*** *Windor*

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